

Iran port becomes smuggling hotspot

BANDAR ABBAS (AFP) — A major industrial port in southern Iran has become a centre for smuggling, with contraband flooding in from a free-trade Gulf island and the United Arab Emirates.

Despite a recent crackdown on smuggling, dozens of tonnes of consumer goods such as audio-visual equipment and cigarettes are sailed daily across the Gulf from Dubai 150 kilometres away and unloaded illegally at the port town of Bandar Abbas before being distributed throughout Iran.

Many more goods are also transported by small boats from the Iranian Gulf island of Qeshm, a free-trade zone, to the mainland and dumped in Bandar Abbas.

"You have to be courageous, know the shoreline and have connections in the police force before you can transit the goods," said Ghasem, a merchant in Bandar Abbas bazaar.

In a region plagued with high unemployment, hundreds of inhabitants from the port including many women rush to the shore every morning to get on waiting boats which shuttle them to and from Qeshm.

They are allowed to buy up to \$80 worth of goods and bring them back to Bandar Abbas after paying tax, which has also created a thriving legal trade.

They generally travel in large groups to be able to buy in bulk and sell the goods on at Bandar Abbas bazaar.

"There are no activities here to attract people besides smuggling and trafficking. But even that is becoming riskier every day," Ghasem said.

The authorities have sharply curbed imports and stepped up the fight against smuggling in a bid to prevent the outflow of foreign currency and save money by paying back \$35 billion in short and medium-term debt to foreign countries.

Smuggling of goods and hard currency costs the country between three to five billion dollars each year, according to official estimates.

Rabin: extremist rabbis should be called ayatollahs

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assailed a group of American rabbis who have urged religious Jews to rebel against his government in an attempt to derail peace accords with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"I hear strange cries from a small group of rabbis in the United States," Mr. Rabin told the Dava daily in an interview published Friday.

"Maybe the name 'ayatollahs' fits them better than rabbis."

"I'm talking about a very small group of rabbis, not about American rabbis in general," Mr. Rabin added.

The word "ayatollah," a title used by Shiite Muslim clerics in Iran, has become synonymous in Israel with religious and political fanaticism.

Mr. Rabin apparently was referring to several dozen orthodox rabbis who met in New York last month to discuss Israel's agreements with the PLO.

The rabbis attacked Mr. Rabin, saying he had no right to give up "parts of the Biblical land of Israel."

The rabbis urged religious Israelis not to obey govern-



SUDANESE MESSAGE: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (right) receives the Sudanese minister of mining and energy, Salahuddin Mohammed Al-Karrar, who delivered a message from Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir on the latest developments at the Sudanese-Egyptian border (AFP photo)

U.S. remains firmly opposed to easing Iraq sanctions

WASHINGTON — State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Thursday the United States will do whatever it has to do to prevent the United Nations Security Council from easing sanctions against Iraq next week.

While Mr. Burns refused to use the word "veto," a senior U.S. official left no doubt that the United States, one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, will exercise its veto if the issue is pushed to a vote in the council, Russia and France and perhaps China and other nations are known to favour easing sanctions against Iraq, the official noted.

"They haven't done nearly enough to warrant a lifting of the sanctions by the United Nations, and certainly the United States will adhere to that position when this question comes before the U.N. Security Council on July 12," the spokesman declared.

The United States believes that U.N. Security Council resolution 688 sanctions should continue until Iraq forsakes "terrorism," abandons its attempts to acquire and produce nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, ceases repression of its own citizens, and accounts for 600 to 700 Kuwaitis and others who are missing from the time of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, he said.

Although he praised the work of Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq, Mr. Burns said the United States is looking at Iraq's "admission of guilt" that it had a biological weapons programme "with a great deal of scepticism."

"We aren't naive," the spokesman said. "For four years now, under repeated questioning by the international community, Iraq insisted that it did not have biological weapons, and now it says it did."

What happened to the 17 tonnes of biological material that Ekeus reported is missing? Mr. Burns asked. "Did Iraq ever attempt to create delivery vehicles for the biological weapons that it now says it was producing before the outbreak of the Gulf war in 1990 and 1991?"

"We have said repeatedly we are concerned about Iraq's failure to comply with all of these relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions," the spokesman said. "And before there can be a serious discussion of modifying the sanctions regime, Iraq needs to demonstrate compliance with all of the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions, not just on weapons of mass destruction."

He said Ambassador Madeleine Albright, the U.S. permanent representative to the U.N., said it well July 5: "A lack of compliance by Iraq is simply not an acceptable way to proceed."

If Iraq wants to be treated as a responsible member of the international community, it must comply with all of relevant resolutions, he said. "It's not just a question of doing or saying the right thing on biological weapons."

"It is one thing to say after four years of international prodding that you now admit your guilt. It's quite another to explain what happened to the growth material," Mr. Burns said. "Were they developing delivery vehicles for biological weapons that could have killed millions of people? These are very serious questions. They cannot be disregarded simply because the Iraqis have made what I would say is a self-serving statement about their past culpability on biological weapons," the spokesman said.

"We'll have to see what other nations think and what they say when the issue of sanctions comes up again next week at the U.N. Security Council," the spokesman said. "Obviously, as you all know, there are some countries who believe that if Iraq says the right thing, then perhaps Iraq should be let off quite easily. We don't believe that."

"And we don't believe, given Iraq's past behaviour towards its neighbours and on this particular question, they ought to be let off with just a simple statement. They ought to be held to a very stiff test. That's what the U.N. Security Council voted on in 1991 and that's what we still believe," Mr. Burns declared.

"We think the international community, for its own sake and its own interests, should remain sceptical until there are concrete deeds that establish that there's been a change in attitude in Baghdad," he said.

"We have a very high standard. We feel very strongly about this issue. It has a direct impact on our national security interests," Mr. Burns said. "Any time you talk about 17 tonnes of biological growth material — material that if it has not been destroyed, if it is currently being hidden, could pose a threat to millions of people in the Middle East and around the world — you've got to take that threat seriously, and we do."

"We will do whatever we have to do to protect the four areas of interest that we've outlined," Mr. Burns replied when asked if the U.S. would cast a veto. "We'll just have to see how the debate goes, but right now we don't believe that there is any basis to lift those sanctions."

He said the U.S. hopes to convince its partners that "it's just too early" to change a four-year-old policy on the basis of a single Iraqi statement. "We wouldn't expect to have to act alone. We think a number of our partners are just as sceptical as we are," the spokesman said.

Arabs and Jews unite to bring ailing Bosnians

TEL AVIV (R) — Six ailing children and men from war-ravaged Yugoslavia flew to Israel on Friday for hospital care in an effort financed in part by Arabs and Jews, organisers said.

The four children and two men were taken to Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem after being evacuated from Sarajevo by a United Nations group and flown by chartered plane to Israel.

A spokesman for the World Conference on Religion and Peace, an inter-faith organisation, said his group sponsored the effort in part with private donations from Jews and Palestinians here and abroad.

"Being able to have Israelis and Palestinians work together to help people other than themselves is very important because they're able to work together as equals," said Joel Weinberg, an Israeli who organised the evacuation.

"By doing this, you put your own suffering into perspective," he told Reuters.

He said hundreds of sick or injured children remain in the former Yugoslavia awaiting treatment, including at least 50 amputees who need to be fitted with artificial limbs.

One of those airlifted, a 30-year-old man from Sarajevo, injured in a mortar attack, had burns over 60 per cent of his body and was unable to move his joints.

A Bosnian girl who was supposed to be evacuated died of internal bleeding from war injuries before the Israeli flight arrival.

Israeli surgeon Ahmad Eid, who accompanied the patients from their pick-up point in Split, Croatia, said none had received adequate medical care in the former Yugoslavia.

Kinkel ends Beirut visit, says Bonn seeks progress

BEIRUT (AP) — Germany's foreign minister said Friday his country and Europe were interested in seeing "major progress" achieved in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process.

Klaus Kinkel spoke at a joint news conference with his Lebanese counterpart, Fariz Bouez, at the end of a two-day visit to Beirut. The minister and his delegation of senior German business executives later flew home.

Before his departure, Mr. Kinkel had talks with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Mr. Bouez and Deputy Parliament Speaker Elias Ferzi.

He met Thursday with Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, the architect of a \$14 billion reconstruction programme launched after the end of Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

In addition to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, Mr. Kinkel discussed with the Lebanese leaders ways to expand economic and trade cooperation through increased German participation in the reconstruction projects.

German companies have won contracts worth millions of dollars to enlarge Beirut airport and rehabilitate the country's damaged telephone network.

Mr. Kinkel said he found Lebanon "a fertile ground" for postwar investments.

Mr. Bouez said he discussed with Mr. Kinkel an agreement to prevent double taxation and ways to provide insurance for investments.

Before meeting Mr. Bouez, Mr. Kinkel visited downtown Beirut, where Mr. Hariri's government has launched a \$1.8 billion rebuilding plan.

He was accompanied by Nasser Shamaa, chief of Solidere, the Lebanese company charged with rebuilding the ravaged commercial districts.

Mr. Kinkel said he briefed Mr. Bouez on a telephone contact he had with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Thursday.

Mr. Kinkel was in Syria when he took a call from Mr. Peres. The Israeli minister asked for the Syrian leadership that Israel was serious about peace.

Syria is the undisputed master of Lebanon, which has 40,000 Syrian troops stationed on its soil as peacekeepers. Progress in the Syrian-Israeli peace talks is crucial for Lebanon to forge ahead with its own negotiations with the Jewish state.

"We try to have a balanced policy" in the Middle East, Mr. Kinkel said, indirectly refuting accusations he heard in Syria that Europe was biased towards Israel.

On Thursday, Mr. Kinkel said that Germany was interested in Lebanon's "highly important political and economic role."

He reiterated his country's support for an Israeli withdrawal from a border enclave in southern Lebanon in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425.

Mr. Bouez said Friday that a united Germany could play a bigger role through the European Union in Middle East peace efforts.

"We believe that Europe now and in the future has a role in the peace process," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany accuses Iran, Syria of spying

BONN (AFP) — Iran and Syria are carrying out widespread spying in Germany, Germany's interior ministry has said. The 200-page annual report by the office for protection of the constitution, presented Thursday by Interior Minister Manfred Kanther, devoted two pages to alleged activities by the Iranian and Syrian secret services.

"Germany is a major site for the operations of the Iranian secret services," the report said. "Their activities are centred on surveying some 100,000 Iranians living in Germany and collecting scientific, technical and military information." The report said that for years Iran had been aiming to develop a nuclear and chemical weapons capability "to be independent of foreign countries."

"Syria's secret services are pursuing similar activities in Germany," the report went on. The methods were "as rigorous as those used in former eastern bloc countries," where Syria was aided by the former Soviet KGB and the east German Stasi secret services.

Suspect arrested in Dubai church fire

DUBAI (AFP) — A suspect has been arrested for ramming his car into a Roman Catholic church, causing a fire, and is believed to have been trying to commit suicide while drunk, police said Friday. They said the suspect, identified only as a 31-year-old Gulf Arab, had told investigators he crashed into the forecourt of the Dubai church on June 30 "by mistake" under the influence of alcohol. He had doused himself and the car with petrol and tried to commit suicide, apparently because of family problems, police said. But when the vehicle caught fire, the man fled. Police did not say when the suspect was picked up. The fire caused slight damage to the roof of the forecourt in front of St. Mary's Church where the car crashed through the iron gates. Dubai, like the six other members of the United Arab Emirates, is known for its religious tolerance.

Lebanon reopens renowned attraction

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon has reopened the Jeita Grottoes, a vast series of floodlit caverns that were one of the country's most spectacular tourist attractions before the 1975-90 civil war. The caves at the source of the Dog River in mountains north of Beirut stretch hundreds of metres into a mountainside. They were used as an arms dump by a sectarian militia during the war. Attractions include subterranean boat rides through a series of flooded caves and magical walks past huge stalactite and stalagmite formations amid soaring ceilings and dizzying drops. The caves, discovered by an American hunter in 1836, were formally reopened on Thursday evening after closing down at the start of the civil war.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00 ... Back to the Future	
14:30 ... Harry and the Hendersons	
15:00 ... Road to Avonlea	
16:00 ... The House of Eliott	
17:30 ... French Programmes	
19:00 ... News in French	
19:30 ... New Headlines	
19:35 ... First Flight	
20:00 ... Major Dad	
20:30 ... The Bold and the Beautiful	
21:15 ... Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman	
22:00 ... News in English	
22:25 ... Seekers	
23:30 ... Times Attack	
PRAYER TIMES	
03:58 ... Fajr	
05:32 ... (Sunrise) Dhuha	
12:41 ... Dhuhr	
16:21 ... Asr	
19:50 ... Maghrib	
21:23 ... Isha	
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	623541
Swedish, Tel. 510740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 652785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terraced Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851	
Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 575691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Relative hot weather conditions are expected to prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be hot with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	22 / 34
Aqaba	26 / 41
Jerash	18 / 37
Jordan Valley	25 / 40
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Aqaba 30 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Fayez Dabbas	759155
Dr. Yousef Raed	896301
Dr. Issam Al Asmar	890504
Dr. Riaz Abu Zineh	894295
First pharmacy	601912
Ferdous pharmacy	763336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644045
Shamsani pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
IBRD:	
Dr. Mohammad Khalil	273099
Aldus pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ghassan Al Fagh	906130
Khalil pharmacy	90417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalil Maternity, J. Ann.	
Jabal Amman Maternity	642462
Mahaj, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsani	664171/4
Shamsani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Muasher Hospital	66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir	771013
At-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/30
Al-Haram Hospital	674153
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Al-Haram Modern Hospital	(09)909090
IBRD:	
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)96732
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)72223
Al-Haram Hospital	(02)72100
Al-Nafsa Hospital	(02)74100
AQABA:	
Prince Haya Hospital	(03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
84:30 ... Vienna (OS)	
11:10 ... Damascus (AZ)	
13:40 ... Sharjah, Doha (GF)	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:30 ... New Delhi (RJ)	
09:45 ... Damascus (RJ)	
12:30 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
18:15 ... Istanbul (RJ)	
19:30 ... Beirut (RJ)	
19:30 ... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)	
19:30 ... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)	
19:30 ... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)	
19:30 ... Colombo (RJ)	
19:30 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)	
19:30 ... Istanbul (RJ)	
19:30 ... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)	
19:30 ... London (RJ)	
19:30 ... Vienna (RJ)	
19:30 ... Riyadh (RJ)	
19:30 ... Dhahran (RJ)	
19:30 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
19:30 ... Madrid (add) (RJ)	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
08:45 ... Beirut (RJ)	
08:45 ... Aqaba (RJ)	
11:55 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
12:30 ... Istanbul (RJ)	
12:40 ... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)	
12:45 ... Beirut, Paris (RJ)	
13:15 ... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)	
13:55 ... London (RJ)	
21:00 ... Dhahran (RJ)	
21:15 ... Riyadh (RJ)	
21:15 ... Dhahran (RJ)	
01:00 ... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)	
03:00 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	700 / 500
Apricot	550 / 350
Banana	100 / 50
Banana (Mukammal)	680
Cabbage	620
Carrot	200 / 150
Cauliflower	250 / 150
Cucumbers (large)	80 / 40
Cucumbers (small)	170 / 90
Eggplant	170 / 100
Garlic	200 / 150
Lemon	460 / 350
Marrow (large)	240 / 150
Marrow (small)	240 / 150
Mulukhiyah	130 / 80
Onion (dry)	800 / 600
Peas	170 / 100
Pepper (hot)	550 / 350
Pepper (sweet)	300 / 200
Potato	200 / 120
String Beans	360 / 200
Tomato	270 / 180
Water Melon	240 / 150

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:45 ... Beirut (RJ)	
08:45 ... Aqaba (RJ)	
11:55 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
12:30 ... Istanbul (RJ)	
12:40 ... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)	
12:45 ... Beirut, Paris (RJ)	
13:15 ... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)	
13:55 ... London (RJ)	
21:00 ... Dhahran (RJ)	
21:15 ... Riyadh (RJ)	
21:15 ... Dhahran (RJ)	
01:00 ... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)	
03:00 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
08:45 ... Beirut (RJ)	
08:45 ... Aqaba (RJ)	
11:55 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
12:30 ... Istanbul (RJ)	
12:40 ... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)	
12:45 ... Beirut, Paris (RJ)	
13:15 ... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)	
13:55 ... London (RJ)	
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21:15 ... Riyadh (RJ)	
21:15 ... Dhahran (RJ)	
01:00 ... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)	
03:00 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
08:45 ... Beirut (RJ)	
08:45 ... Aqaba (RJ)	
11:55 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
12:30 ... Istanbul (RJ)	
12:40 ... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)	
12:45 ... Beirut, Paris (RJ)	
13:15 ... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)	
13:55 ... London (RJ)	
21:00 ... Dhahran (RJ)	
21:15 ... Riyadh (RJ)	
21:15 ... Dhahran (RJ)	
01:00 ... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)	
03:00 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	

Jordanian produce on sale at a local Amman market

*Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery.

PRICES	
e in fcs per kg.	
700	500
550	350
620	680
100	50
200	150
250	150
80	40
170	40
600	150
140	350
350	350
140	160
130	80
300	600
170	100
550	350
500	200
200	120
360	200
270	180
230	150
240	120
100	50

JOHANNESBURG
A black town has emerged in South Africa after the country's controversial constitution was adopted. Nelson Mandela, who was imprisoned during a marriage in 1962, has a house in Johannesburg, the country's commercial centre.

Then now over the mass-circulation Johannesburg Star and page headline "Police say at least 100 people were killed in Johannesburg on 1994 during a march by members of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) before the country's new polls."

Eight Zulu were taken outside the South African National Congress (ANC) headquarters in Johannesburg. The president has ordered the ANC to kill if necessary to end the building.

Mr. Mandela spoke last night in a controversy with the South African Association (SAA) which has urged violence to end white rule.

Mr. Mandela was Friday as having a place between the police to take action to protect the House "lend credence to the perception that a plot between the police."

South African president



A family flees from the troubled Korangi area of Karachi to avoid the continuous firing between security forces and militants. Hundreds of families are relocating to safer parts

of Karachi taking only their necessary belongings, in a bid to escape the intense violence in this troubled city (AFP photo)

Strike paralyses Karachi; anti-militant drive continues

KARACHI (AFP) — Security forces pursued their sweep of Karachi for armed militants Friday while a strike called by a major political party paralysed much of the city's violence paralysed life in Pakistan's commercial capital.

Police carried out new searches in the industrial district of Korangi to flush out militants and there were fewer running gun-battles that have left 21 dead in the district over the last three days.

"There has been an improvement in the situation," a senior police official said, adding that "we dominate certain areas, but some still need to be sanitised."

There was sporadic shooting in the troubled central district, but no widespread dis-

turbances were reported, police said.

The series of weekend strikes were called by the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) to protest against the alleged gang-rape of the sister of a party activist and the slaying of one of its leaders three weeks ago.

It refused to call off the strike despite talks tentatively scheduled for Sunday between the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and MQM negotiators.

There were very few people on Karachi streets and public and private transport was thin. Shops and markets remained closed. Friday is the weekly holiday in Muslim Pakistan and people generally remain at home during the day, gathering for prayer at

mosques in the afternoon.

The government holds the MQM responsible for much of the violence that left more than 350 dead last month, including 90 killed during a three-day "mourning" observed by the party over the alleged rape and the murder.

A security cordon remains in place around much of Korangi district, where two more bodies were found early Friday.

Police and paramilitary troops earlier in the week launched a similar four-day operation in western Orangi district.

Police said two torture cells had been found in Korangi. The cells contained handcuffs, ropes, scissors, an electric drill, blindfolds, an axe

and blood-soaked clothes, police added.

Torture has reportedly been used frequently in Karachi. Bodies have been found with holes drilled in chest or face, burned with cigarettes and sometimes dismembered.

Officials said the Korangi operation would continue until the area was purged of militants. "The militants probably still have an ammunition dump in the area. That is why they are resisting," a security official said.

"They are using armour-piercing bullets which are causing some damage to the armoured personnel carriers but the weapons are predominantly automatic rifles," a security official said.

Chechens break off peace talks over killings by Russian troops

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Chechen negotiators stormed out of peace talks with Russian officials Friday after overnight incidents in which Russian troops reportedly slaughtered 10 civilians.

The head Chechen negotiator, Usman Imaev, said the talks would be broken off permanently unless the Russians handed over the troops responsible for the killings by 8:00 p.m. (1600 GMT).

He was addressing an angry crowd gathered around the bodies of six civilians, all from the same family, including two children and a baby girl. Witnesses said a seventh member of the family died in hospital.

Neighbours in the Grozny district where the shooting is alleged to have taken place put the number of dead at eight.

The pre-dawn shooting in an eastern suburb of Grozny was carried out by men who appeared to be Russian soldiers, according to neighbours who came to the peace talks to protest.

"Men in black wearing masks came at 5:30 a.m. in an armoured car, stopped it up the road, went into the house and shot them dead," said one neighbour who asked not to be named.

In another incident, four Russian troops knocked on the door of a Chechen in a Grozny suburb to demand vodka. They shot him when he said he had none, then sprayed gunfire as they left the suburb, killing a second person and wounding three, according to Sayid Sayidov, a Chechen civilian official.

Some 5,000 people marched from the scene of the killing of the family towards the bombed-out remains of the Chechen presidency building. Their path was blocked by Russian troops and armoured vehicles.

As Mr. Imaev and military commander Aslan Maskhadov addressed the crowd, shots were heard but it could not be determined if they came from the demonstration.

A Russian military source told the Interfax News Agency that the incident was a "classic provocation destined to derail the negotiation process."

"Getting Russian uniforms and weapons is not difficult (in Chechnya), he added, calling the killings "part of a series of provocations by extremists led by (Chechen President Dzhokhar) Dudayev since the conflict began."

"There are people who are interested in a bloodbath," he said.

The latest peace talks began after Chechen guerrillas, on the verge of defeat, struck in Russian territory last month, taking 1,500 hostages in the southern city of Budennovsk.

Russian troops rolled into Chechnya in December to crush the tiny Caucasus republic's three-year-old independence bid. The war has left between 15,000 and 30,000 people dead, many of them civilians.

Meanwhile, President Boris Yeltsin Friday appeared to backtrack from an

order calling for a permanent military presence in Chechnya, saying such a deployment would now depend on the outcome of peace talks under way in Grozny.

The new position was contained in a presidential decree issued by the Kremlin press service.

The decree called on the Defence Ministry to "determine the conditions for deploying troops (...) according to the results in settling the crisis in the Chechen Republic and the orders of the Russian president."

A first decree issued by Mr. Yeltsin Tuesday announced simply that Russian forces would be permanently stationed in Chechnya.

Chechen negotiators strongly protested against Mr. Yeltsin's first decree, saying it contradicted all the gains made in peace talks which opened in the devastated Chechen capital Grozny after a ceasefire accord reached on June 21.

Youth violence continues north of London

LUTON, England (AFP) — Seven police were injured and 16 people arrested early Friday as rampaging teenagers smashed, torched and looted their way through town in a second night of violence sparked by the capture of a young escapee, police said.

The trouble was sparked by the arrest Wednesday of a 13-year-old detention centre runaway. In the second night of trouble late Thursday, hundreds of youths, estimated at up to 500 and as

young as 12, hurled bricks and bottles at police and torched a library, three schools, vehicles and garbage bins.

Officers said Thursday night's six-hour siege began just before midnight with a handful of youths that quickly snowballed to a mob.

As they approached the initial gathering of unruly youths in an attempt to talk to them, officers said, other youths in a stolen car screeched to a halt in the middle of the street and fire-bombed the car, sparking the

riot. Police said the violence was confined to the vast working class section called Marsh Farm Estate in this city 35 kilometres north of London.

Security and fire-fighting reinforcements were called in from surrounding cities, police said.

Looting mobs turned on TV crews filming the violence, stripping a GMTV truck of £15,000 (\$23,000) worth of equipment before setting it ablaze. The three-

man TV crew was unhurt. A two-man ITN TV crew on foot was also set upon, their camera stolen.

"I can't say why it started again," said Chief Inspector Des Lawless. "It was just more vandalism."

Residents watching from nearby high-rise apartment buildings said riot police — called in from Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire — came under fire from a hail of missiles as they made repeated baton charges.

Kim Jong-Il mourns father amid hints of imminent formal succession

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea's reclusive leader, Kim Jong-Il, made a rare appearance at a mass memorial service in Pyongyang Friday at which officials hinted he could soon formally take over the leadership of the isolated Communist state, monitors said.

The appearance of the bespectacled junior Kim, 53, came at a mass memorial service attended by 10,000 people on the eve of the first anniversary of the death of his father, Kim Il-Sung.

"Comrade Kim Jong-Il... is present at the service with state and party officials," the Communist state's mouthpiece Korea Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo said.

The monitors said the junior Kim's appearance at the massive ceremony which started at 7:00 p.m. (1000 GMT) was his first since June 16 when he visited an army

unit, and his first in the North Korean capital since April.

Calling Kim Jong-Il the "destiny and future of our country," KCNA quoted the chairman of the North's Supreme People's Assembly, Yang Hyong-Sop as urging party members, military and workers to pledge "infinite loyalty" to him.

"Comrade Kim Jong-Il... is immediately Comrade Kim Il-Sung. He has fully inherited the idea, leadership and noble virtues of Comrade Kim Il-Sung," KCNA quoted Mr. Yang as saying, adding that the address had been authorised by Kim Jong-Il.

The speech coincided with reports by a state-funded South Korean thinktank here that North Koreans were practising a song celebrating Kim Jong-Il's being named head of state and party general secretary.

The junior Kim's failure to take the two top posts in the

country since the death on July 8 last year of Kim Il-Sung, despite being groomed as the elder Kim's successor, had spawned rumours of ill health and power struggles.

In a 30-page report on North Korea's current situation, the Institute for National Unification said the song contained a phrase saying: "Marshals Kim Jong-Il has been upheld as Workers Party General Secretary. Rejoice and Celebrate."

The song has yet to be broadcast or used in any official event, but is being widely rehearsed by North Koreans. It also contains a phrase celebrating Kim Jong-Il's appointment as state president, the institute said.

In a parallel development, North Koreans are also changing descriptions of the late president from Great Leader Kim Il-Sung to "Beloved Father Kim Il-Sung," the report said.

Fresh row erupts over S. Africa massacre

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A fresh row has erupted in South Africa over out-of-country comments by President Nelson Mandela on killings during a march by Zulus last year in Johannesburg, the country's commercial centre.

"New row over massacre," the mass-circulation Johannesburg Star said in a front-page headline Friday.

Police say at least 55 people were killed in an around Johannesburg on March 28, 1994, during a march by Zulu backers of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) a month before the country's first all-race polls.

Eight Zulus were gunned down outside the Shell House headquarters of Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), which is the arch-rival of the IFP.

The president has said he authorised ANC guards to kill if necessary to defend the building.

Mr. Mandela sparked the latest upsurge in a continuing controversy with remarks to the South African Press Association (SAPA) during his current visits to Japan and South Korea.

Mr. Mandela was quoted Friday as having said on his plane between Tokyo and Seoul that the failure of police to take adequate precautions to protect Shell House "lends credibility to the perception that there was a plot between the IFP and the police."

South African media interpreted this as an accusation that police and the IFP joint-

ly plotted to attack shell House. The killings there are still under police investigation.

Reports of his comment prompted an outraged statement from the IFP challenging Mr. Mandela to substantiate in court what it said were his claims of a plot.

Retired Police Chief Johan Van Der Merwe, who headed the nation's police at the time, denied suggestions of a plot and called for a judicial inquest into the massacre.

"I think it's very important to settle this matter once and for all," he said.

Deputy President F.W. de Klerk, who was president at the time of the massacre, regretted Mr. Mandela should have commented on the affair while overseas.

Political analysts, however, saw nothing new in Mr. Mandela's remarks and noted he had referred to a "perception" of a plot.

"Given the history of the relationship between the IFP and the old security forces, and especially since this was before the election... one can see that certainly in ANC ranks there is a great deal of suspicion as to the sort of collusion that was going on," Richard Cornwell of the Pretoria-based Africa Institute told Reuters.

A number of reports have surfaced of destabilising activities by so-called third force elements within the security forces against the ANC in its drive to power.

Mr. Cornwell said he doubted whether all material on such activities would ever

see the light of day, but the Shell House incident and its handling — by all sides, including the ANC — "raises a number of very uncomfortable questions."

Meanwhile in Seoul, Mr. Mandela and his South Korean counterpart Kim Young-Sam agreed Friday to expand trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

"We agreed that our two countries should endeavour to further build our bilateral relations into an exemplary model of cooperation between developing countries," Mr. Kim said at a joint press conference.

Mr. Mandela said South Africa "would like to increase its trade with South Korea," which he called "a highly valued trading partner" for his country.

But he also hinted all was not smooth sailing, by urging South Korea to lower barriers on imports of fresh fruit and meat.

"These prohibitions should be removed," he said, but added that "trade is booming," with South Korea, now South Africa's 11th largest export market and fifth largest supplier.

Mr. Kim said the two intended to further cooperation in culture, sport and tourism.

The joint press conference followed hour-long summit talks, which Mr. Kim said provided an exceedingly significant occasion for the two countries to "lay a solid basis for even more substantive cooperation."

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WHERE BEAUTY MEETS QUALITY

By Dr. Musa Keilani

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1973
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Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Open defiance

THERE IS bad news and good news coming from the mass hunger strike by Palestinian prisoners in six Israeli jails who began fasting on June 18.

The bad news is that the hunger strikers in three of these jails have decided to "suspend" their action on the advice of Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat. This suspension, in the opinion of one striker, was bad news because it split the prisoners front. The pause is supposed to give a chance to a joint Palestinian-Israeli ministerial committee on prisoners to work out which prisoners should be released and when.

But the Palestinians have had enough of "joint committees" which, almost invariably, end by making still more concessions to Israel. So, the good news is that 1,000 of the prisoners in three of the prisons are going on with their fast, this includes the women in the Tel Mond jail. Also continuing are the 28 sympathy strikers in the International Red Cross compound in East Jerusalem. Other solidarity fasts have been taking place in Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jericho, despite Mr. Arafat's attempts to get them to stop.

The strikers say that Mr. Arafat has no credentials to deal with the prisoner issue because he sent his right-hand man, Dr. Nabil Shaath, his minister of planning in the Palestinian National Authority, to tell the civilian strikers in Jerusalem to accept an Israeli offer to release some prisoners provided they signed a pledge not to oppose the peace process. Dr. Shaath was angrily shouted down.

Furthermore, according to the PNA's minister of justice, Freih Abu Meddain, "Israel makes agreements only to break them." Having pledged in the Oslo accord to release prisoners it has jailed 3,000 more Palestinians since that accord was signed.

Another piece of good news, from the Palestinian point of view, is that the refusniks are being led by Faisal Hussein, designated by Mr. Arafat as the PNA representative in Jerusalem. Mr. Hussein himself has been on hunger strike for ten days now; and says he will go on until all prisoners stop fasting which, in turn, depends on a general prisoner release. Mr. Hussein, the scion of an old and very influential Jerusalem family, is thus in open defiance of Mr. Arafat and at the highest level.

A doctor attending the Jerusalem group has said that after 17 days of a diet of water and salt the health of a 66-year-old mother of two prisoners is causing concern.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FAKHRI KAWAR, a writer in *Al-Dustour*, lauded Jordan Television for carrying a programme that focused on the plight of the inhabitants of Ruseifa where pollution has reached a dangerous proportion. The television programme focused on the environment in the town which lies between Amman and Zarqa and whose lands serve as a garbage dump for the inhabitants of the capital and its industrial waste and replayed earlier statements by government officials and Amman mayor about measures taken to deal with this problem and remove the danger that threatens the lives of the local population, said the writer. None of the promises given by officials to the 2,000,000 inhabitants in Ruseifa have been honoured and the families continue to inhale the stench and the bad smell and watch their children grow in a very polluted atmosphere, he added. Since 1990, the local population has been demanding solutions to their chronic problems despite the pledges given by Parliament members and cabinet ministers to deal with this issue, continued the writer. Saying that the latest promises came from Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi, who said that the garbage dump will be moved away from the town and that the waste will be processed to produce fertilizers to help grow trees and green Jordan, the writer said that people believe that the mayor will end this tragedy and save the lives of the local inhabitants because the mayor had grown up in the Zarqa and Ruseifa area and understands the problem better than any other. He expressed hope that the mayor, together with all concerned officials, will take serious steps to end this problem.

A WRITER in *Al-Rai* daily strongly criticised a report by the World Bank, which stated that the Middle East region has no future because it is beset with chronic issues like poverty, unemployment and backwardness which are impossible to eradicate. Fahd Al Fanck said that though the report could have implied a warning to the decision-makers in the Middle Eastern countries to be concerned should they fail to take drastic action to improve the situation, the report as it stands deals a devastating blow to plans for attracting investors.

Jordanian Perspective

Harness around Iraq's neck must be removed

JORDAN'S CALL for a high-level international dialogue with the Iraqi leadership with a view to resolving the four-year-old stand-off in the Gulf reflects the reality of the situation in the region after the failure of U.S.-led efforts to topple the government of President Saddam Hussein. If Washington and its strongest ally in this respect, the United Kingdom, do not appreciate the fact that their approach to the Gulf crisis is flawed, then it is a matter not only wanting to appreciate for reasons known not only to them but also to the rest of the world.

But what is of high concern to us in Jordan is the determined American-British systematic destruction of the Iraqi society over the past four years. Regardless of whether Washington and London would like to admit it, the stark reality that we see today in Iraq is simply the suffering of a people and reports of absolute misery that is gnawing away at the very fabric of a society.

Children and the elderly are dying of hunger and easily preventable diseases. Men find little chances of making a living. Iraqi women have been pushed to the most degradable level of motherhood -- of having to tell their children they could not offer them food when they are crying out in hunger.

What purpose does this serve? It would seem that some people are born into this world for the simple purpose of making other suffer.

And the world does not seem to care. But that appearance is deceiving. There is a growing movement, as His Majesty King Hussein reiterated in the last two weeks, that enough is enough, and the world has to come up with a formula that ends the suffering of the Iraqi people.

First and foremost, the covert and not-so-covert policies and actions adopted by the Washington-London alliance against Iraq have miserably failed to undermine the survival of the government of President Saddam in Baghdad. The U.S. and the U.K. might want to pat themselves in the back that reports of unrest in Iraq are signs

of a growing momentum in the country against the regime, but the truth is that they themselves know very well that odds are very strong against such a course of events.

The truth, however, is that the people actually suffering from the stubborn refusal by the U.S. and the U.K. to entertain any thought of settling the conflict without dictating impossible political condition are the 18 or 19 million Iraqis.

For us in Jordan, it is totally frustrating to be unable to do anything to help our brethren across the border in Iraq. The frustration is compounded when we realise that the suffering of the Iraqi people is nothing but a direct result of the desire of some world powers to protect their own political and economic interests in the region.

The United States and its allies are totally mistaken and are kidding only themselves if they believe, as their leaders and official assert, that Arabs all over support their approach to Iraq. Arab applause, as seen from Washington, of the U.S. policies in the Gulf region comes only from a very small minority. The reality is that there is a profound sense of grief among the Arab masses over what is happening to the people of Iraq and that sense is continuing to grow every day. Washington may or may not want President Saddam in power in Baghdad, but it does not mean that we Arabs have to go along silently with it and watch helplessly as our blood and kin in Iraq suffer for no fault of their own.

The only question that faces the Arab masses is what they can do about the situation. Given the unchallenged supremacy of the U.S. as the leading world power and given the peculiar features of Arab politics, it seems highly unlikely that Washington and London would ever climb down from their high towers to appreciate that what matters more than politics, oil economics and arms sales is the human element.

We are not ready to accept the American and British argument that if Baghdad was concerned over the welfare of its people then it would accept the limited oil sale that the West has so magnanimously offered. We believe that the

very essence of the proposal is to set a precedent that would enable the U.S. to exert indirect control of Iraq's oil wealth and oil sales through the United Nations. It will be a violation of the sovereignty of Iraq and shackling the freedom of Iraq as an independent sovereign state to use its resources the manner it finds best.

So where do we go from here?

France, China and Russia -- three other major powers which, like the U.S. and Britain, have their role, albeit to varying degrees, in the international scene -- have supported the sensible view that four years of concerted economic pressure after more than 40 days of consistent bombing are more than enough of punishment to Iraq.

The way out is simple and clear: The United Nations Security Council has set its conditions for lifting the shackles on Iraq, and Iraq has met with most, if not all the conditions, and is in the process of meeting the rest, as U.N. inspector Rolf Ekeus said last week. No other conditions should be attached to the lifting of the sanctions and article 22 of Resolution 687 should be applied in its strict sense without allowing the U.S. to add on its whimsical demands.

So when the issue of sanctions against Iraq comes up this week at the U.N. Security Council, the world should have the courage to tell Washington and London that it is no longer willing to stand by and allow them to misuse the world body's powers to suit their self-serving interests.

The simple message of the world should be: The choking harness around Iraq's neck should be removed without any delay. And those who stand against that removal should not be allowed to prevail.

The challenge that faces the international community today is to make sure that this message is heard loud and clear and acted upon. If the world fails to pick the challenge, it would be failing itself in fulfilling the obligations attached to human life when God created us.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Egyptian-Sudanese dispute must not be allowed to escalate into war

By Ella Nasrallah

THE ARABIC dailies in the past week gave prominence to the Egyptian-Sudanese dispute, the peace process as well as domestic affairs.

Tareq Masarweh, a writer in *Al-Rai*, accused foreign powers of fuelling the dispute between Cairo and Khartoum and said that political reasons lie behind the whole issue. The writer said that Israel was quick to declare that Iran was behind the assassination attempt on the Egyptian president, while Cairo accused Sudan of the attempt and these accusations are based on political reasons stemming from hostile stands and not based on facts resulting from the investigations. The foreign powers behind the whole issue are keen on embroiling Arabs in their side-differences so that Israel can rest in peace and at the same time are keen on forcing the Arabs to make peace with Israel, claiming that such peace brings with it prosperity for the Arabs.

Foreign powers have been behind the strained relations between Sudan and Egypt and it was due to the strained relations that Cairo was quick to announce that Khartoum was behind the abortive attempt in Addis Ababa, said the writer, who cautioned the two Arab states to refrain from any hostile acts that benefit neither country. However, bitter was the abortive attempt on the life of President Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptians should not threaten war against their southern neighbours, said Saleh Al Qallab, a writer in *Al-Dustour*. Even if the persons who carried out the abortive attempt were Sudanese nationals, this cannot justify Cairo's accusations of Khartoum of being behind the attack as a regime, said the writer. While condemning the criminal attack on Mr. Mubarak, one cannot justify any armed conflict between Cairo and Khartoum because war can solve no problem but rather deepen

splits between regimes and people, he added. The Sudanese and Egyptian regimes should take a lesson from the past and avert the shedding of Arab blood at any cost, he said.

Fakhri Saleh, another *Al-Dustour* columnist, said Arab masses hope that the war of words between Sudan and Egypt will not develop into a military conflict that would be disastrous to the two countries. The writer suggested that the dispute could be defused through reasons and quiet dialogue or if need be through an international arbitration and said that the two sides ought to take time to consider the consequences should they opt for conflict over this incident.

Hamadeh Faraaneh, another *Al-Dustour* columnist, blamed Egypt for the deterioration of relations with Sudan, saying that Cairo has no evidence whatsoever that Sudan was behind the attempt on the life of the Egyptian president in Addis Ababa. Saying that Egypt and Sudan had been often clashed on the border, costing both of them many innocent lives, the writer cautioned against any rash decisions on the part of the two regimes. He said Cairo should remember that it is fighting a war against the opposition groups inside Egypt and should not place the blame on others or go to war, which would ruin development projects in the two countries and place additional burdens on the national economies of the two countries.

Mohammad Subeishi, a writer in *Al-Dustour*, suggested that Jordan offer its mediation to end the Cairo-Khartoum dispute. Jordan seems to be the only Arab state which is eligible to play this role at the moment since the Kingdom maintains good relations with the two countries, and it is in Jordan's interest to see that Cairo and Khartoum settle their differences amicably and abort hostile parties' plots against the two countries, said the writer. Saying that some Arab and foreign states

have interests in seeing Sudan's regime changed and its national economy in ruins through a war with Egypt, the writer said that Jordan for its part has a real interest in safeguarding the interests of the two countries.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer in *Al-Rai* daily, said the Arab masses are appalled at the deteriorating relations between Cairo and Khartoum and the war of words that might lead to an armed conflict between them. Recalling that the crisis stemmed from the abortive attempt on the life of the Egyptian president, the writer said that Cairo and Khartoum have been trading accusations before the incidents, with Cairo accusing Khartoum of being behind the training and arming of Islamists in Egypt. What is needed now is a mediation at the Arab level to defuse tension and prevent the two Arab states from sliding towards conflict, said the writer.

Despite the publication of the results of the investigations into the attack on the Egyptian president, which proved that Egyptian nationals were involved in the attack, the Egyptian president still insists that Khartoum was the perpetrator, said George Haddad, a writer in *Al-Dustour*. No one can condone any assassination attempt or acts of criminals but every one expects from the regime in Cairo and Sudan to deal with this issue reasonably and expects Cairo to accept the results of the investigations by the Ethiopian authorities, said the writer. Escalating the war of words between the two neighbouring states can only lead to adverse consequences which no Arab wishes to see happening, added the writer.

Sultan Al Hattab, a writer in *Al-Rai*, said that war between Sudan and Egypt can only aggravate the already poor economies of the two countries and increase the number of the hungry and the unemployed. Should the two countries insist on armed confrontation over border disputes or for any other

reasons, they have only themselves to blame for the dangerous situation that would ensue, said the writer. The writer said that the dispute can be settled through Arab mediation and through reason and self-restraint which must be exercised by the Sudanese and the Egyptian leaderships.

Yousef Al Azm, a writer in *Al-Dustour*, said that foreign powers are behind the dispute between Khartoum and Cairo simply because they want Egypt to be involved in war with Sudan to help bring down the Islamist regime in Khartoum. The writer said that the fact that an Islamist regime in Sudan is in existence, it will shortly have far-reaching influence on the other nations in Asia and Africa, something that the world Zionists fear and the United States and Israel are doing all that their power to undermine the stability in Sudan.

Tackling the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer in *Al-Rai*, said that the Israeli government is adamant in its position with regard to the return of displaced Palestinians. The Israeli government says that the return of Palestinians displaced from the 1967 war would disturb the demographic balance in the Palestinian lands and would bring further security headaches to the Israelis, said the writer. He said that over the past 28 years of occupation, the Israelis have been responsible for the imbalances in the West Bank and Gaza and the tension and wars with the Arab states neighbouring Israel. According to the Palestinian-Israeli agreements, the displaced persons should be able to return to their homeland but the Israelis still refuse to abide by the accord, he added. He said that Israel's adamant position was behind the failure of the meetings in Cairo and Bir Al Sabe and Amman by a committee discussing the future of the displaced

Palestinians.

The points of disagreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis far outnumber the elements of agreements largely due to Israel's backing away from the Oslo agreement, which calls for the release of prisoners and the arrangement for Palestinian elections, said Mohammad Kawash in *Al-Dustour*. The writer said Israel is dragging its feet with regard to the question of redeploying its forces as provided for in the Oslo accord and so no solution for the deadlock is in sight. The redeployment plan as suggested by the Israelis, added the writer, means keeping a de facto occupation of Palestinian lands.

Israel suffers from a security complex and this is negatively affecting its peace negotiations with the Arabs, said Tareq Masarweh. In Palestine, he said, the Israelis insist on keeping Jerusalem and giving the Palestinians limited self-rule over limited parts of the West Bank while in Syria, Israel insists on occupying parts of the Golan and keeping troops there to ensure security for the Jewish state. Stressing that the Israelis are proving day after day that they have not changed their stand towards occupation of Arab lands, the writer said that all that which happened between the Arabs and the Israelis since the Gulf war came as a result of United States pressures on the Arabs.

Taber Al Adwan, a writer in *Al-Dustour* daily, said the daily scenes of violence and clashes between the Palestinians and the Israelis clearly reflect the fact that peace is out of reach but it also demonstrates the fact that the Palestinians refuse to allow Israel to impose its will on them. Acting with this mentality and using force to achieve its ends, Israel is bound to face more resistance and can never dream of peace that contradicts all norms and international and humanitarian rules, said the writer.

Israel's refusal or delays in implementing the second

phase of the Oslo deal with the Palestinians under different forms of pretexts are clearly aimed at undermining the peace process with the Palestinians, according to Ibrahim Al Absi in *Al-Rai* daily. The writer said that the Israelis continue to hold on to their settlements that were illegally set up on Arab lands and find a pretext of ensuring security for these settlements in order to justify their refusal to pull out their forces from the Arab territories, said the writer. But everyone realises the fact that the Oslo deal was meant to end the presence of Israelis on Arab territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and everyone also realises that no just and durable peace is viable under the present situation, added the writer.

Writing in *Al-Rai*, Zuleikah Al Rishke called for all public and private organisations in Jordan to give due support to women unions' drive to present their views at the Beijing conference this year. Contrary to what some think, participation in the Beijing conference on women will bring about many benefits to women in the Arab World, said the writer. Referring to the preparations by women who hold series of meetings to pave the ground for the Beijing meeting, the writer said that these meetings are bound to help crystallise women's demands and help them better present their case to the world conference.

With reference to the parliamentary debate over the repealing of laws on boycotting Israel, a writer in *Al-Dustour* said that selling of any part of Jordanian territory to a foreigner will be a violation of the Constitution. According to Abdul Latif Subeishi, the Constitution states clearly that: The Kingdom is an independent sovereign state whose territory cannot be compromised nor can any part of it be ceded to others. He said that this provision makes it imperative on the government to prevent the selling of real estate to foreigners.

The solving

By Chip Poston

FROM MY home in Sh...
...a Palestinian neigh...
...hood in East Jeru...
...salem, I watch as 2,100 new...
...housing units are rapidly...
...constructed on an adjacent...
...hill. The new Israeli settle...
...ment, named Rehov Shufan...
...is a former "green...
...area" which until last year...
...was one of the largest pine...
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...illegal according to interna...
...tional law, which prohibits...
...the introduction of civilian...
...populations into areas...
...under belligerent military...
...occupation.

Afghan

By Peter Grestie

Senior

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...She became president...
...of Yemen upon unificatio...
...of Abdullah Saleh, a nor...
...has been building...
...with the descendant...
...of a southern tribal ar...

Egypt does no

Continued from page 1

...in a June 26 when gunme...
...opened fire at his car so...
...he left the airport to...
...own home.

Letter from occupied Jerusalem

'There will never be peace' before solving the dispute over the holy city

By Chip Poston

FROM MY home in Shu'fat, a Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem, I watch as 2,100 new housing units are rapidly constructed on an adjacent hill. The new Israeli settlement, named Rehov Shufat, will house ultra-Orthodox Jews in a former "green area," which until last year was one of the largest pine forests in the city. To the north, east and south are other extensive Israeli residential areas — Neve Ya'acov, Pisgat Ze'ev, French Hill and Ramat Eshkol, with a combined population of over 50,000. Like most of the Arab enclaves remaining in East Jerusalem, Shufat is surrounded by Israeli settlements, all built since the 1967 war and all considered illegal according to international law, which prohibits the introduction of civilian populations into areas under belligerent military occupation.

Israeli politicians — including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin — frequently restate their well worn claim that Jerusalem is Israel's "undivided, eternal capital," whose status must not be subject to negotiations with the Palestinians. But this ignores the most

fundamental reality of life in Jerusalem: Division.

Twenty-eight years after Israeli military occupation, Arab Jerusalem still lacks adequate roads, schools, sanitation, public parks, telephones, street lights. Jerusalem's Palestinian residents, who today comprise 27 per cent of its population, pay their proportionate share of city taxes, yet they receive only 5 per cent of municipal services. Since the start of the intifada few Israelis venture into Arab Jerusalem, and many fear coming to the city altogether. "Whoever says that Jerusalem is united is wrong," declares Faisal Husseini, Palestine National Authority (PNA) minister without portfolio who "unofficially" represents Jerusalem issues. "Whoever takes a walk in Jerusalem will find two cities: One suffers from the occupation, the other runs it."

If the situation of Jerusalem's Palestinian residents has changed in the era of the Declaration of Principles, it is only because life has worsened. The military closure which separates Israel from the West Bank and Gaza, imposed in March 1993, has reduced commerce in East Jerusalem by half. Since Palesti-

nians cannot enter the city without permits from the Israeli army — a system not unlike the former South African apartheid laws — Arab Jerusalem's schools, hospitals, libraries and bus lines are struggling for survival.

While the municipality has shifted control for municipal planning into the hands of right-wing and ultra-Orthodox Israeli politicians, Palestinians continue to be systematically denied zoning approval and housing permits. Arab homes built without permits are subject to demolition and Palestinian land continues to be confiscated so the city can build new housing for the tens of thousands of Israelis who have settled in East Jerusalem since the 1967 war.

Palestinian residents of Jerusalem who were not recorded in the Israeli census of 1967 — including the spouses and children — must apply for residency status from the Israeli interior ministry in order to legally reside here. If Palestinians from Jerusalem spend too much time abroad, or even marry a non-Jerusalem resident, they are liable to lose their residency status. By way of contrast, a Jew from almost

anywhere in the world can move to Jerusalem under the Law of Return and automatically become a citizen of Israel. Since 1967 the demographic shift has been so dramatic that East Jerusalem, which had virtually no Jewish residents at the time of the Six Day war, now has a majority population of Israelis — approximately 160,000.

Article Five of the Declaration of Principles (DoP) states that permanent status negotiations on Jerusalem should begin "as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period." However, the timetables agreed to in the DoP have thus far been ignored by Israel. There is no question that the longer Prime Minister Rabin can delay discussions over the fate of Jerusalem, the stronger Israel's position will be when final status negotiations begin. Meanwhile, Israel continues to construct settlements at a feverish pace in and around Jerusalem, as it implements a policy "of legalised transfer" designed to drive the remaining Palestinian population out of the city. Late last year the Knesset passed legislation outlawing

the few "official" Palestinian institutions in the city, which are now subject to removal to Gaza or Jericho. Could the Palestinians really have had this in mind when they signed the Oslo Accords?

Although Israel is currently in an overwhelming position of control in Jerusalem, a stubborn problem remains: Until there is a solution to the sovereignty of Jerusalem which is acceptable to both Palestinians and Israelis, there will never be peace. It is widely believed that the problems of Jerusalem are insoluble, yet several creative, practical plans for shared sovereignty of the city exist, including proposals by John Whitbeck, an international lawyer from Paris, and Gershon Baskin of the Israel-Palestine Centre for Research and Information.

The underlying principle behind these plans is both simple and just — to let Palestinians have control over Palestinian areas of the city, and Israelis over Israeli areas. The sticking point will be in finding a just solution to the problem of Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem.

Middle East International

Afghan rivals square off in strategic Salang Pass

By Peter Greste
Reuter

SALANG PASS, Afghanistan — On one side of a steep, narrow valley, Said Mohammad squints along his rifle barrel at a lump of rock jutting over Afghanistan's famed Salang highway about 200 metres away.

Behind that rock, Abdullah Noori checks his light machinegun as his comrades stuff spare magazines with Chinese-made rounds.

Mohammad and Noori are fighters on opposite sides of the frontline in the Salang Pass, preparing for more action as government and opposition forces step up a long struggle for control of the strategic mountain route.

The Salang Pass links Kabul with Afghanistan's northern provinces and the Central Asian states

beyond.

The only sealed road across the mountains, it runs through high ground offering significant military advantage to anyone controlling it.

Mohammad is a member of Jumbish-I-Milli, part of the opposition supreme coordination council fighting to overthrow the Kabul government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Jumbish-I-Milli, led by General Abdul Rashid Dostum, holds mountain posts in the northern half of the Salang Pass.

Gen. Dostum says he plans to push south to seize the highest point about five kilometres away.

"From there, Bagram air base, the Panjshir Valley and Jibal Us Seraj will all be within range of our artillery, and Kabul will be defeated," he said, confidently tapping a map at his

northern headquarters in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Rabbani's military strongman, Ahmed Shah Masood, uses Bagram to launch air strikes on Dostum's men. Masood's headquarters are at Jibal Us Seraj. His home is in the Panjshir valley, where many of his commanders and fighters come from.

While Gen. Dostum and his men set their sights on the mountain tops, Abdullah Noori and his comrades are equally determined to fight their way to vantage points above the

opposition-held towns of Doushi and Pul-i-Khumri just north of the pass.

Noori's commanders, Said Rasoul, said control of the pass would open up a vital supply route.

"If we can get arms and ammunition along the Salang highway, we can attack at the heart of Dostum's control," he said.

Despite recent attempts to agree to ceasefire, both sides appear to be preparing to take the offensive.

Western aid workers in Jibal Us Saraj, which guards the southern entrance to the Salang, say large numbers of government troop trucks and ammunition are moving into the pass.

Defence Ministry sources in Kabul say government forces are getting ready to try to push northwards.

Fresh bomb craters dotting the frontlines show how both sides have been using warplanes to soften up their foes, but the battle is almost certain to become a war of attrition.

The Salang Pass is a steep and icy region, where deep gullies and razor-sharp ridges cleave the mountain and every boulder gives as much protection as a well-

dug bunker.

Mujahedeen guerrillas fired rockets from the peaks to harass Soviet convoys along the pass during their 10-year war to drive the Soviet army out of Afghanistan. The rusting, twisted remains of Russian tanks and heavy weapons still litter the road.

Government and opposition forces facing off along the Salang Pass today are keeping their strategies secret. But each knows the other's objectives and neither is prepared to give way.

Abdullah Noori slips away from his position behind the rock to go and help distribute fresh ammunition. Said Mohammad gets on the radio to order up extra supplies of mortar shells.

"They are for the government's breakfast," he says grinning.

Many S. Yemenis are eager for return of sultans

ADEN (AFP) — Southern Yemenis, shaken by last year's civil war and anxious about the future, are placing their hopes on the return of tribal sheikhs and sultans who have been in exile for 28 years.

Many southerners are eager for an enlightened form of the tribal rule which the Marxists tried to quash while they were in power from 1967 until 1994.

Those Marxists in the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) were discredited when the party's forces lost last year's civil war, which erupted over its attempt to secede from the 1990 union of North and South Yemen.

Since he became president of Yemen upon unification, Ali Abdullah Saleh, a northerner, has been building bridges with the descendants of the southern tribal aristocracy, which had ruled

Aden under a British protectorate.

"By helping them return and recover their property, he made them his own men," Sheikh Tareq Abdullah, a lawyer, said. Mr. Saleh has ruled northern Yemen by cooperating with the tribes of that region.

Most of the sheikhs and sultans went into exile in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Britain when South Yemen gained independence from London in 1967 and the Marxists took power.

Mr. Saleh encouraged them to return to build institutions that were parallel to a southern administration run mainly by the YSP, according to Renaud Detalle, a researcher with the French Centre of Yemeni Studies. The YSP was finally ousted

from the northern-based coalition government in October last year, months after the civil war ended on July 7.

Deprived of their own political leaders, southern Yemenis are looking increasingly forward to the return of a more enlightened group of sultans.

"I think they learned the lessons of the past. They cannot go back to the old rules," said Sheikh Abdul Rahman Nomah, the sole deputy of the Free Constitution Party, which was founded here in 1944.

The descendants of the exiled sheikhs and sultans are "highly sophisticated and enlightened people" who have studied in the West, Sheikh Abdullah said.

"They are completely and entirely different people. They are not being forced on

the people. People welcome them. What could be better?" he added.

But the problem is that the prodigal sons are not coming to stay. "They come back for a month, we sacrifice oxen and sheep for them, then they leave," Ahmad Hussein Bilal, a surgeon, said.

One of the few to have settled is Tariq Fadil, a descendant of the sultans of Abyan, northeast of Aden, but he supported the north before and after the civil war and took back his property by force.

Still, Sheikh Abdullah said, "a majority of those coming back are not demanding all of their property. They just want to be tribal chiefs using their influence within the law."

Aden's police chief, Colonel Mohammad Saleh

Tareq, also put his trust in the tribal leaders. "We believe when the sheikhs provide services to the people, they help the state and represent the state," he said.

Mr. Detalle warned against the tribal system which is prevalent in the north. "The tribes already want to control all the jobs for security guards and drivers in the oil companies. They will kill each other for a car."

Sheikh Abdullah agreed. "The tribes not only use violence to put things right but also to commit wrongs," he said.

But the return of the sheikhs would generally help the south, he said. "That would again show the superiority of the south over the north, even in the tribal system."

Egypt does not want tension

(Continued from page 1)
ba on June 26 when gunmen opened fire at his car soon after he left the airport to go into town.

Egypt angered Ethiopia last week by implicating some Ethiopian security officials in the attack but Egyptian ministers later said they had confidence in the Ethiopians.

Gen. Alfi said: "The Ethiopian regime is now rebuilding its institutions and definitely the Ethiopian security apparatus still suffers from some shortcomings, especially in protecting a conference like the African summit and the VIPs taking part."

He said Egyptian and Ethiopian security had

gathered plenty of information on the incident but he could not reveal any of it for fear of compromising the investigation.

Sudan's spiritual leader Hassan Al Tourabi, the man behind the military government in Khartoum, has praised the gang that failed to assassinate Mr. Mubarak.

"A group of mujahedeen have cropped up from Egypt's soil, chasing Egypt's pharaoh (Mubarak) anywhere he goes," he said in a speech made earlier this week but only published Wednesday by the official news agency SUNA.

It was his first show of support, since the assassination attempt, for the armed

Egyptian militant group Gama'a Al Islamiyah, which claimed the attack and vowed to kill the president.

Last week after Mr. Mubarak implicated Sudan in the attack, Mr. Tourabi, the eminence grise of Sudanese politics, and government ministers contented themselves with simply denying being involved.

Now, however, there is a different tone to their statements.

"Egypt is today experiencing a drought in religion and faith. A catastrophe has befallen the Egyptians," Mr. Tourabi said.

"Allah has willed that Islam be revived from Sudan and Islamic religion will flow along with the waters of the Nile to cleanse Egypt from obscenity," he added.

Ariane puts spy satellite into orbit

(Continued from page 1)

available through them to the Western European Union (WEU).

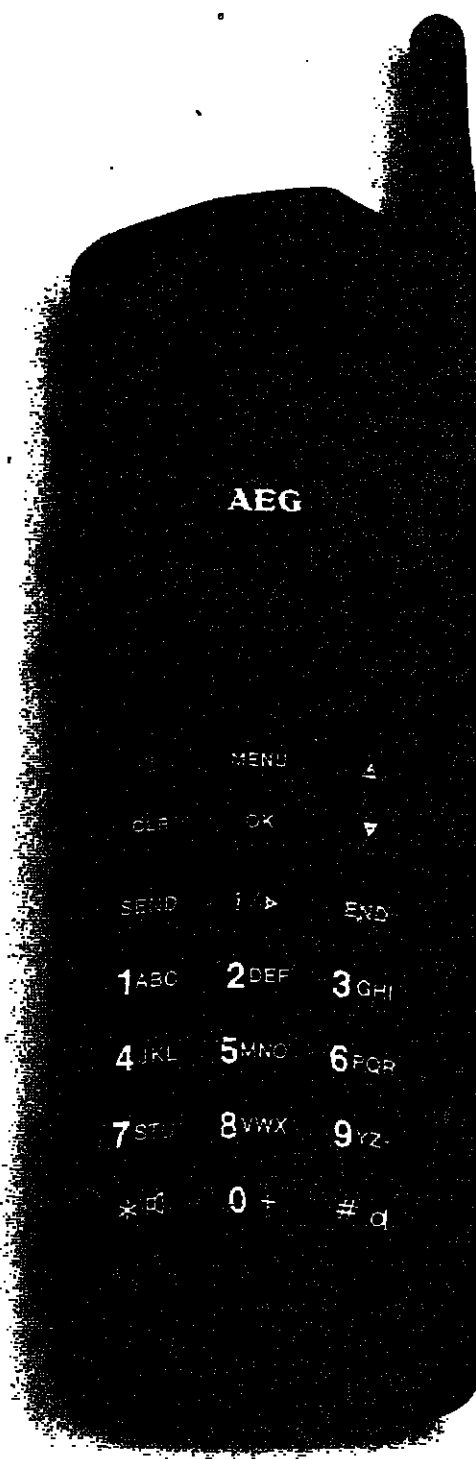
The Ariane rocket also deployed two smaller satellites, a French Cerise and a Spanish UPM/SAT-1, shortly after releasing Helios-1A.

It was the third time that the European rocket has been used to carry military satellites into space. It also launched in 1988 and 1990 the SkyNet-4B and 4C communications satellites which were used by the British Defence Ministry to communi-

cate with its troops and ships. The French military has refused to release much information about its classified satellite, other than to say it weighs 2.5 tonnes and is equipped with a large solar panel.

No details were provided on how sharp a resolution its cameras can provide, but a document from the French aerospace firm Aerospatiale said the satellite carried "the most performing optical instrument ever produced in Europe."

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(Actual Size)

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Weight: approx. 140g without battery (high capacity battery weight: approx. 110g).
- Dimensions: approx. 16.5 X 5.5 X 2cm
- High capacity battery: (NiMH 6V).
- Charging time: approx. 30 min.
- Talk time: approx. 1.5 hours with high capacity battery, more than 2 hours with super high capacity battery (accessory).
- Stand-by time: 20-26 hours with high capacity battery, up to 2 days with super high capacity battery (accessory).
- Output power: 2 watts, 5 watts with booster.
- Display: supertwist nematic LCD, 3 X 12 characters, plus a line of icons.

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Save Water ... Every Drop Counts

Delayed debate of economic laws depresses stock market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Dampened prospects for early enactment of key laws on economic reforms and eased taxation depressed the Amman Stock Market this week, and share prices dropped in thin trading.

Brokers at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said investors appeared to be expecting the downward trend to continue until the legislation was presented to Parliament.

It was not immediately known when the government intended to send the draft laws to the assembly, which started an extraordinary session last month to debate pending legislation deemed as urgent.

The weekly AFM report said trading for the week dipped to five million dinars, a two-thirds decline from last week.

The official AFM share price index based on 60 of the 120 companies listed in the market shed 2.2 points or 1.5 per cent during the week to close at 156.5 points.

Brokers said the actual decline in prices was close to three per cent since most of the trading was in stocks not included in the official index.

The separate sectoral AFM indices showed that industrial shares lost 2.2 per cent, banks 1.3 per cent, service firms 1.3 per cent and insurance companies 0.4 per cent.

The services sector accounted for more than one third of the weekly volume, with 1.8 million dinars. Next came industrials with a volume of 1.7 million dinars, followed by commercial banks with 1.2 million dinars and insurance stock with 300,000 dinars.

The AFM report said 2.2 million shares changed hands during the week under 3,410 contracts.

The week saw trading in-

volving 94 companies. As the market closed for the week, only 20 of them showed slight gains, 59 lost and 15 remained stable.

Brokers said there was a crunch on liquidity in the market after the Central Bank offered short-term certificates of deposits with yields up to nine per cent in a move aimed at checking conversion of dinar holdings to dollars.

"We diminished liquidity and low hopes of seeing the new laws being passed soon, it was only natural that prices declined," commented an AFM dealer who, under standing market guidelines, cannot be identified.

In any case, said the dealer, investors had already gambled on expectations attached to the draft laws related to investments and taxation and it was unlikely that the market would reverse its decline before the government actually sends the legislation to Parliament.

Saudi 1995-2000 plan sees 3.8% GDP growth

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia published details of its 1995-2000 development plan on Wednesday, forecasting faster average economic growth of 3.8 per cent a year and a greater role for the private sector.

The kingdom has pinned much of its hope for balanced growth in 1995-2000 on an increased private sector role, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. The kingdom's sixth plan, which was approved by the cabinet on Monday.

It said the government was hoping the private sector would respond enthusiastically when it launches its long-expected privatisation programme.

One of the plan's objectives was "rationalising government spending and in-

creasing the reliance of the nation's economy on the contribution of the private sector," SPA reported.

It said priorities include diversifying the economy, reducing reliance on oil as a revenue source and stepping up exploration and production of mineral resources.

It would work to boost confidence in its dollar-linked riyal currency to attract foreign and domestic capital.

It also wants to see more Saudi nationals in the workforce. Saudi Arabia's 17 million population includes six million foreigners. Half of all Saudis are under the age of 15.

SPA did not publish the plan's financial volume figures, but it said the plan sees gross domestic product (GDP) growing by an average

3.8 per cent per year at constant prices, up from the 3.2 per cent target in the previous plan.

One economist in Riyadh said estimates for the previous plan showed actual GDP rose on average by 4.2 per cent per year.

"During the first years of the (fifth) plan, we had fairly high growth rates. But during the last years, 1993 and 1994, we had a fairly slow growth rate," he told Reuters.

There were no official figures for real GDP growth. Private sector and government investment are slated to rise 4.9 per cent and 19 per cent annually, SPA said. No comparative figures were immediately available for the previous plan.

SPA said refining and petrochemicals are seen rising in

1995-2000 an average of 3.9 and 8.3 per cent respectively.

"In foreign trade and balance of payments, the plan aims to decrease the current accounts deficit... and achieve an average growth of 12 per cent in the value of non-oil exports," it said.

SPA said gross capital formation would rise 8.5 per cent, "raising the contribution of investment in GDP from 15.5 per cent in the beginning of the plan to 19 per cent at the end of it."

Non-oil GDP was expected to grow an average 3.9 per cent, double the rate achieved during the fifth plan, SPA said.

The productive sector was forecast to grow 4.2 per cent in the new plan and services 4.4 per cent. Agriculture was to grow 3.1 per cent, lower

than the previous plan target of seven.

Industry was expected to rise 4.9 per cent, compared with the targeted growth rate of 7.8 per cent in the fifth five-year plan.

Construction, minerals and utilities were also targeted to grow at a more rapid pace of four, nine, and 5.5 per cent respectively compared to targets in the previous plan.

The plan set a target of 24 billion riyals (\$6.4 billion) of soft loans from the kingdom's special credit banks in the five years to the year 2000.

Official figures show a total of 20.8 billion riyals (\$5.5 billion) was disbursed in the four years to 1994 by the four institutions that charge low or no interest on their loans, indicating little change in their overall lending.

Coffee price slide continues; Brazil refuses to halt exports

LONDON (AFP) — Coffee prices continued their slide Friday after the world's biggest producer, Brazil, decided not to join four other Latin American states in temporarily suspending exports to keep up prices.

On the London futures market, coffee hit a year's low on Thursday and shed another four per cent Friday morning following Brazil's decision.

The September contract was down \$85 to \$2,120 per tonne by late morning Friday. At the opening, the contract had briefly plunged by \$120 from the previous day's close.

Prices are now at their lowest level since June 1994, while as recently as last September they breached the 4,000-dollar barrier for the first time in eight years because of frost followed by drought in Brazil.

On Monday, the world number two producer Colombia, along with Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador, agreed to suspend coffee exports within 30 days in an attempt to force up prices.

Brazil's participation is crucial to the success of any unilateral price support action, analysts say. Indonesia and Ivory Coast, two other major producers, have both said they will not take part in the action.

A Brazilian delegation including representatives from the private sector and headed by Luiz Milton Veloso Lueas, the trade policy chief at the ministry of industry, commerce and tourism, is due to go to Bogota to meet other regional producing nations to discuss the situation.

Meanwhile, the Ivory Coast — which has said it will not suspend its prices — has proposed that a meeting of the major coffee producing countries be held in London around the end of this month to discuss ways of halting the slump.

Guy Alain Gauze, the country's minister of raw

materials, suggested the move in a letter to the Brazilian chairman of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (APCP), Rubens Barbosa.

Dated July 6, the letter suggested the meeting be held in the last week of July or the first week of August.

Brazil exported 4.65 million 60-kilogramme bags during the first five months of 1995, for \$824.7 million.

Producers will now have to wait and see whether Brazil turns up at Saturday's meeting in Bogota grouping representatives from Colombia, Costa Rica, Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua to review the price situation.

The meeting, which will formalise Monday's decision to suspend sales within 30 days, was initially scheduled for Friday but delayed pending a decision from Brazil.

This drastic fall in coffee prices, coming in the middle of winter in the southern hemisphere, has surprised analysts as Brazil could still suffer a devastating frost at any time.

In a communique released late Thursday in London, the APCP said it was "extremely concerned" with recent market behaviour, which reflected "speculation rather than market fundamentals."

Kuwait cabinet approves bad debt plan

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government, in a move likely to face tough opposition in parliament, said it approved on Wednesday a bill altering repayment terms for \$20 billion in bad debt to try to solve the economy's thorniest problem.

The cabinet said it had sent the bill to the opposition-dominated National Assembly for debate to try to strengthen the economy and collect the longstanding debt owed by 10,000 individuals and companies at the lowest cost to state funds.

The bill has not been published but newspapers have said it softens the existing repayment terms following protests from wealthy debtors that the current terms are too strict.

The proposed amendments aim to serve the public interest, support and stimulate the economy, and provide a practical opportunity to allow the state to collect the debt at the lowest cost possible, a cabinet statement said.

The debt derives partly from the 1982 crash of an unofficial stock exchange used by all sectors of society and partly from commercial losses aggravated by Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

The debt is owed to the government, which bought out commercial banks' hold-

ings of the dubious loans in 1992. An official list of borrowers has never been published but they are believed to include leading merchants and government officials.

To become law, the bill must be approved by parliament, and many opposition MPs have said they will oppose any attempt to soften the existing repayment law passed in August 1993.

The cabinet did not say whether its economic committee, which has been studying the bill since it was first proposed by the government a month ago, had made any changes to the draft.

Debtors have said implementation of the existing terms would cause them to make a rapid sale of assets to fund repayments, causing a disastrous plunge in property and stock values.

Others say they would like to opt for the generous forgiveness available under an early settlement option, but do not have funds readily available to make the early

payments. Newspapers say the bill lengthens to five years from two the period in which cash settlement can be made and lengthens to 20 years from 12 the rescheduling or instalment option.

Bankers say the problem is now urgent, because under the existing plan begun in 1993 most debtors opted to repay by cash settlement — the deadline for which is only two months away.

Early settlement involves a partial write-off followed by repayment of the balance of September 6, 1995.

Banks are not directly affected by the dispute, because in a first stage of the debt rescue in 1992 the government bought their portfolios of dubious loans with low-yielding bonds.

But until the loans are repaid and the bonds redeemed, some banks face the prospect of stagnant earnings and a dearth of good Kuwaiti lending risks. Commercial banks' holdings of debt bonds make up 36 per cent of their total assets.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your monetary status well and do whatever is needed for improvement today. Analyse every bit of information you get.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be practical in handling personal matters and think before you reach any definite decisions. Avoid accidents.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Look into right sources for the data you need and then apply it to improve present conditions. Take no risks with loved ones.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study your personal desires and find the right and best way to gain them. Take some time to be alone today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can handle outside matters very well, provided you are careful with bigwigs today. Do nothing to ruin your credit.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You want to run off to some new place or activity today, but important duties would suffer thereby. Be happy at home tonight.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You think you can handle some financial affairs and thereby get out of the red today, but it could make matters worse.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a chance to get fine arrangements made in the outside world and you should not permit family to interfere.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have tasks to do which require your careful attention since solvency could cost you today with no progress.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You want to put across some fine talents. Although your ideas work well this morning, be careful this afternoon.


AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have to have the cooperation of loved ones for whatever you have in mind concerning family interests.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Listen to the questions of others, but don't make any definite replies as yet until you have given them more thought.



Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

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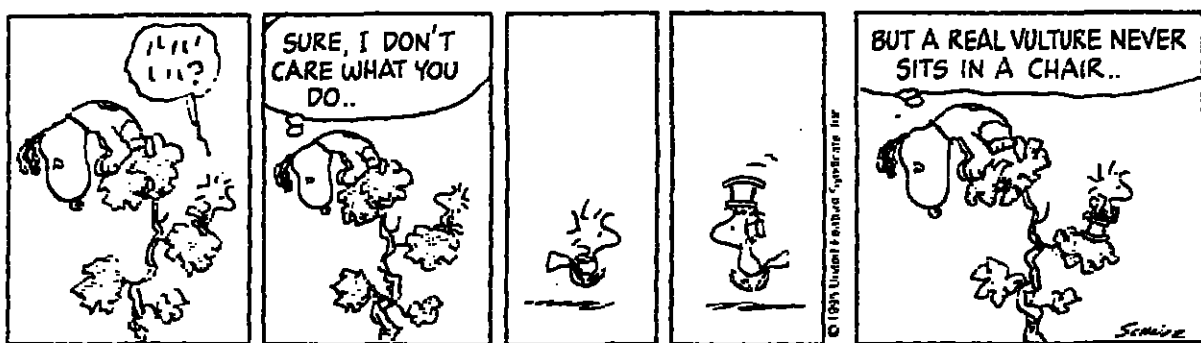
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Andy Capp



Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



JUMBLE
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YUHRR

AGREW

REDOAF

GUTONI

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: SNACK BALKY JAUNTY SUBWAY
Answer: Highways lead here — THE "BUY" WAYS

THE Daily Crossword by Don Johnson

ACROSS

1 Grouchy

5 Ornamental

9 System of

14 English queen

15 Acting award

16 "Sesame Street" name

17 Aspect

18 Sea

20 Stone monument

21 Juan Pab

23 Malaga

24 Clayman

26 Peas

28 Means of ascent

30 Conquered

32 Fast

33 Fish dish

35 Dinner courses

37 Melody

41 Walk loudly

43 Tasty

44 Cade

46 Mr. Bhatnagar

48 Floor plate

49 — Deming

51 Leave in the

52 Lunch

53 Plot

54 Former province in Ireland

56 Inventor's monogram

57 Victor Lyster

61 — Island

64 Magnified

67 Feast

68 — Carta

69 Around cent

70 In the past

71 Coasters

72 Game

73 Fanned beverage

HOVIN

1 Patch with

2 Also —

3 Not covered enough

4 Lurches

5 Alchemist son

6 Love Rango's friend

7 Shady

8 Worker on

9 Warts

10 Table setting

11 Two insects

12 In the sky

13 Mosquito

19 Flame by brand

20 — Islands

21 — Melody

27 Shogun

28 Shogun

29 Child and lover

31 Starry negative

34 Clay

35 — Carta

37 —

38 Laid a stone

40 Dares

42 Bear

43 Famous wife

44 Love Rango's friend

45

50 Ocean by

52 Rarely

53 Famous wife

54 Waterway

55 Stray fence

56

57 Crisp

58 Back of the neck

59 Penman

60 Farmer's need

61 Remnant

62

Wednesday's puzzle solved:

W H I T E 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

A R I E S 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

T A U R U S 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37

G E M I N I 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

C A N C E R 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

L E O 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

V I R G O 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85

L I B R A 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97

S C O R P I O 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109

S A G I T T A R I U S 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121

C A P R I C O R N 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133

A Q U A R I U S 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145

P I S C E S 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157

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903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914

915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926

927 928 929 930 931 932 93

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Civil servants total 137,000

Public sector employees, totalling 137,000, work in 85 ministries, departments and corporations. President of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Abdullah Ulayyan said, Mr. Ulayyan said 60 per cent of the civil servants work in two ministries, which are the ministries of education and health. He said 40 per cent of civil servants work in Amman Governorate, 15 per cent in Irbid Governorate, nine per cent in Zarqa Governorate, eight per cent in each of the Balqa and Karak governorates, five per cent in each of Jerash and Ajloun governorates and one per cent in each of Madaba and Aqaba governorates. Mr. Ulayyan said women account for 31 per cent of the total government work force. The percentage of female workers is highest in the Ministry of Education where it stands at 55 per cent, he said. The CSC president said the number of job applicants registered at the commission totals 108,000, of whom 33,000 are holders of university degrees and 62,000 are holders of two-year community college diplomas (Al Ra'i).

** Assistant governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Ahmad Abdul Fattah said the process of preparing a new law on monitoring the work of banks operating in Jordan, including branches of foreign ones, is in its final stages. Mr. Abdul Fattah said the new law aims to boost the role of the Central Bank in monitoring the performance of banks as part of measures taken by the Kingdom to adopt free economy policies and implement the economic reform programme. He said the CBJ was contemplating issuing a decision calling on branches of foreign banks operating in the Kingdom to raise their capital to JD 10 million instead of JD 5 million. This decision, he said, follows one issued by the Central Bank ordering local banks to raise their capital to more than JD 20 million before the end of 1995 (Al Aswak).

** Recent statements by Minister of Finance Basel Jaraneh denying the government intends to reduce customs duties on cars will have little or no effect on the passenger car market, car dealers said. They said the recession in car market was due mainly to high prices of cars, resulting from the high customs duties and other tariffs, which makes prices beyond the reach of ordinary people. They said rumours spreading every now and then about imminent reductions in tariffs have their negative influence on their business and the statements by Mr. Jaraneh will have little effect on boosting their sales since citizens already expect reductions in customs duties before the end of the year. Nevertheless, one car dealer asserted that there was improvement in his business as soon as the minister made his statement (Al Aswak).

Smith Corona files for bankruptcy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Time was, writing meant typewriting. Words like these — written on a television screen — were composed on the solid keyboard, banged noisily onto a piece of paper, and when they weren't quite right, ripped out and scrapped when the paragraphs just didn't work.

It's easier and faster with the word processor, a reality that pushed the last big-name American typewriter manufacturer, Smith Corona, into bankruptcy on Wednesday.

On the computer keyboard, a touch makes letters and then words, no need to push hard. Another touch changes them, still another erases them all without a trace, usually on purpose. No need to change paper, no need to turn fingers into blue or black while changing a ribbon. The computer takes care of all that, and at speeds the old ways couldn't approach.

But at a cost. There was a romance about the typewriter, the clattering keys, the yellow Western Union paper on which travelling reporters would bang out a story and have it telegraphed home. "Western," a newswoman would shout when his story was ready, and a messenger would run it to the telegrapher.

Twenty years ago, lightweight portable typewriters in blue, zippered cases were standard equipment for travelling U.S. reporters. Climb aboard a campaign bus or chartered airplane and everybody had one.

And for all the speed and efficiency of the word processor, there was a discipline in writing the old-fashioned way, on paper. The words inked there had a permanence about them and, in memory at least, were chosen with more care for the fact that they weren't easily changed. Indeed, since they had to be telegraphed or dictated over the telephone — to a typist — to make their way to a news editing desk, there also tended to be more selectivity, fewer words.

There also was something personal about the typewriter as a tool. Ernie Pyle's typewriter, the black portable on which he wrote columns about World War II, is on display in an exhibit at the National Archives.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 687171 / 687173
ORGANISED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (01/07/1995 - 05/07/1995)
WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.T.C.	408,210	222.000	222.000	218.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	133,733	4.620	4.620	4.570
BANK OF JORDAN	16,487	3.270	3.270	3.300
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	3,378	1.390	1.390	1.330
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	19,777	2.560	2.560	2.570
WEST JORDAN BANK	223,487	8.010	8.010	8.100
JORDAN TRUST BANK	35,924	2.830	2.830	2.850
JORDAN GULF BANK	28,858	1.320	1.320	1.290
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	988	4.000	4.000	3.950
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	86,948	3.810	3.810	3.760
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	11,689	4.590	4.590	4.520
BUSINESS BANK	10,023	3.990	3.990	3.900
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	28,399	4.350	4.350	4.250
WEST JORDAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	11,412	3.650	3.650	3.780
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	118,740	1.160	1.160	1.120
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	100,681	1.730	1.730	1.610
BANKS SECTOR	1247310	INDEX NUMBER: 180.87		
		CHANGE: -1.26%		
JORDAN INSURANCE	17,405	3.260	3.260	3.260
MIDDLE EAST INSURANCE	192,669	3.380	3.380	3.500
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	969	1.900	1.900	1.920
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	1,050	4.200	4.200	4.200
JORDAN PRINCE INSURANCE	15,516	2.640	2.640	2.620
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	29,006	3.100	3.100	3.260
JORDAN LAND INSURANCE	3,341	2.700	2.700	2.830
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	3,120	2.600	2.600	2.600
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	480	3.370	3.370	3.200
THE NATIONAL ARABIA INSURANCE	5,562	3.050	3.050	3.100
AL-NISR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	1,473	4.600	4.600	4.370
INSURANCE SECTOR	270653	INDEX NUMBER: 135.45		
		CHANGE: -0.04%		
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	232,567	1.730	1.730	1.710
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	192	1.350	1.350	1.280
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	1,487	6.500	6.500	6.500
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	746,699	6.030	6.030	5.950
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	46,463	2.820	2.820	2.810
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	32,342	2.400	2.400	2.400
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	11,863	1.050	1.050	1.050
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	20,225	1.180	1.180	1.230
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	335	0.660	0.660	0.670
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRAI	14,507	10.000	10.000	10.000
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING / AD-DUSOUH	14,460	8.000	8.000	7.600
UNITED HIGHWAY & COMMERCIAL HOTELS	220,472	2.270	2.270	2.290
ARAB TRAVEL FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	103,756	3.390	3.390	3.300
JORDANIAN REFINANCING INVESTMENT HOLDING	13,780	1.280	1.280	1.280
SERVICES SECTOR	1459108	INDEX NUMBER: 131.97		
		CHANGE: -1.31%		
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1,325	28.000	28.000	26.250
ATTACHMENT CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	970	1.200	1.200	1.240
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	107,863	3.850	3.850	3.800
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	56,514	3.150	3.150	3.040
NEW ARAB FOUNDRY	6,013	5.210	5.210	5.110
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	59,364	10.500	10.500	10.380

JORDAN TANNING	2,112	8.400	8.400	8.000
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	9,951	3.470	3.470	3.390
THE JORDAN WOOLLEN MILLS	17,137	8.120	8.120	7.950
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	170,452	5.180	5.180	5.000
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	9,850	6.000	6.000	6.000
JORDAN DAIRY	2,475	2.400	2.400	2.400
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	9,990	2.640	2.640	2.600
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	1,244	3.800	3.800	3.800
THE PUBLIC MINING	3,515	2.260	2.260	2.070
SHAWIN & WELSH	4,771	2.260	2.260	2.260
ARAB AL-DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	8,847	2.490	2.490	2.490
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	45,194	8.100	8.100	7.900
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	14,955	0.760	0.760	0.760
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	38,648	5.950	5.950	5.800
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	14,092	1.410	1.410	1.400
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	1,275	2.550	2.550	2.550
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	40,369	1.250	1.250	1.190
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	60,136	2.430	2.430	2.250
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & HOTCH/JINCO	385	3.960	3.960	3.850
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	1,567	0.640	0.640	0.630
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	7,430	2.300	2.300	2.260
KANTHER INVESTMENT	225	1.550	1.550	1.500
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	86,173	3.290	3.290	3.210
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	61,869	2.180	2.180	2.170
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	88,469	1.910	1.910	1.900

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR 1075103 INDEX NUMBER: 131.66
CHANGE: -1.97%

GRAND TOTAL 4052174 INDEX NUMBER: 156.46

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (01/07/1995 - 05/07/1995)
WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	9,785	0.750	0.750	0.740
JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	53,493	0.830	0.830	0.820
BARAKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	28,402	1.470	1.470	1.430
UNITED CO. FOR ORGANISING LAND TRANS.	79,689	2.490	2.490	2.470
ARAB FIN INV. CO.	165,337	1.300	1.300	1.280
ARAB FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES	29,478	1.030	1.030	1.000
NATIONAL CHLORINE INDUSTRIES CO. LTD	55,355	1.900	1.900	1.890
NATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS IND. CO.	11,374	1.140	1.140	1.100
HAZAK DIES & MOULD	15,985	1.120	1.120	1.070
EL-KAY READY WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	14,544	2.300	2.300	2.270
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	54,130	1.540	1.540	1.500
UNIVERSAL RETAIL	875	1.500	1.500	1.500
MO PHARMA	39,467	0.980	0.980	0.990
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETARIAN OIL INDUSTRY	74,428	2.480	2.480	2.360
JORDAN STEEL	115,210	1.110	1.110	1.030
ARAB ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES	5,695	0.920	0.920	0.900
UNION TOBACCO	140,609	1.830	1.830	1.700
RAZI PHARMACEUTICALS	44,718	0.950	0.950	0.970
INDUSTRIES ENGINEERING	22,492	0.920	0.920	0.930
I-TEXTILE MANUFACTURING	7,910	1.050	1.050	1.000
GRAND TOTAL	977116			

Financial Jordan Times

in co-operation with
Markets Cairo Amman Bank
U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 6/7/95	Tokyo Close 6/7/95
Sterling Pound	1.5965	1.5944**
Deutsche Mark	1.3795	1.3829
Swiss Franc	1.7448	1.7489**
French Franc	4.8555	4.8343**
Japanese Yen	84.80	85.05
European Currency Unit	1.3372	1.3340**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.75	5.68	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.43	6.62	6.75	7.12
Deutsche Mark	4.37	4.37	4.37	4.50
Swiss Franc	2.75	2.81	2.93	3.12
French Franc	6.78	6.48	6.31	6.28
Japanese Yen	1.06	0.93	0.81	0.81
European Currency Unit	5.96	5.96	6.13	6.25

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.1025	1.1080
Deutsche Mark	0.5007	0.5032
Swiss Franc	0.6050	0.6060
French Franc	0.1431	0.1436
Japanese Yen	0.8138	0.8179
Dutch Guilder	0.4468	0.4490
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0027	0.0049
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8190	1.8320
Lebanese Lira	0.041885	0.042665
Saudi Riyal	0.1842	0.1859
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3620
Qatari Riyal	0.1889	0.1902
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.7880	1.7970
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1890
Greek Drachma	0.2765	0.3275
Cypriot Pound	1.5045	1.5965

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3658/68	Canadian dollar
	1.3866/76	Deutschemarks
	1.5530/40	Dutch guilders
	1.1506/16	Swiss francs
	28.50/54	Belgian francs
	4.8370/20	French francs
	1608.8/3.8	Italian lire
	86.06/15	Japanese yen
	7.2225/25	Swedish crowns
	6.1640/90	Norwegian crowns
	5.4078/28	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5950/60	
One ounce of gold	\$384.75/385.05	

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Blijlevens wins longest stage

DUNKERQUE, France (AP) — Dutch cyclist Jeroen Blijlevens may have known something big was about to happen. He called home before the tour de France started and told his mother "come to the tour, I'm going to win a stage."

Mother Blijlevens stayed home while her 23-year-old son took the fifth stage of the tour de France Thursday, beating the other top-name sprinters in a race to the finish.

Maybe mom will listen to Jeroen next time.

Blijlevens edged ahead of Slovenian Jan Svoboda and German Erik Zabel in the finish with Mario Cipollini of Italy, already the winner of two stages, and Djamolidine Abdoujaparov of Uzbekistan, also trailing.

"At one kilometre from the finish, I chose to stay right behind Abdou," Blijlevens said. "With 300 metres to go, I passed him and it was really something to also beat Cipollini."

Italy's Ivan Gotti stayed ahead of his teammate Bjarne Riis of Denmark by a second in the overall standings as the riders prepare to enter Belgium on Friday.

The sixth stage Friday goes from Dunkerque to Charleroi, Belgium, 202 kilometres.

Gotti, with no major victories to his credit, spent his full day in the yellow jersey by staying out of trouble as did the favourites.

Miguel Indurain, seeking his fifth consecutive victory in the tour, Tony Rominger and Yevgeny Berzin of Russia, all finished in the same time and lost nothing in the overall standings to Gotti.

Tour de France

The only change among the top 15 in the overall standings was with Laurent Jalabert of France, who lost the overall lead and 50 seconds to Gotti on Wednesday after a fall. The Frenchman started to chip away by gaining six bonus seconds in intermediate sprints.

Jalabert stayed eighth but is now 34 seconds away from the lead after the longest stage of this year's tour, 261 kilometres (162 miles) from Fecamp to Dunkerque in northwest France.

Two top riders had to drop out. Belgian champion Wilfried Peeters and Italian Fabio Baldato, the winner of the first stage, withdrew from the race, victims of the fall on Wednesday that cost Jalabert the lead.

Tour de France glance

A quick look at Thursday's stage of the Tour de France:

★ Stage — The fifth stage from Fecamp to Dunkerque, 261 kilometres (162 miles), the longest stage of this year's tour.

★ Winner — Dutch rider Jeroen Blijlevens won in

another sprint finish.

★ Yellow Jersey — Ivan Gotti of Italy held onto his one-second lead over teammate Bjarne Riis of Denmark.

★ How the others fared —

Baggio joins AC Milan

MILAN (AP) — Roberto Baggio joined AC Milan in the most expensive transfer in the Italian League this year, completing the long-rumoured deal for an estimated 31 billion lire (\$19.3 million).

The transfer fee eclipsed that paid by Parma, which spent \$10.5 million for Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov in a transfer from Spain's FC Barcelona.

The deal was confirmed by both AC Milan and Juventus, which parted with the 28-year-old Italian international striker after five seasons because of a contract dispute.

The 1993 European Player of the Year and a key figure in Italy's drive to last year's World Cup final, Baggio refused to take a 50 per cent cut that would have reduced his salary to about \$1 million.

According to sources at AC Milan, which is owned by former premier and media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, Baggio will get about \$2.18 million a year, for three years, while La Juve will receive about 20 billion lire (\$12.5 million) from the transfer over two years.

Baggio's transfer is nearly double the \$11.5 million Juventus paid to get him from Fiorentina in 1990, then a world record. However, it now falls far short of the current world record of about \$25 million, paid by AC Milan for Guiseppe Lentini to get him from Torino in 1992.

Juventus, which is owned by the Agnelli family of auto makers, wished Baggio success in a farewell message, noting he was going to play "with one of the most titled and successful world clubs."

Although benched by a knee injury for nearly three months, Baggio was instrumental in Juventus' league and Italian Cup titles this past season, in which it also reached the UEFA Cup final only to lose to Parma.

Called the Raphael of soccer fields by Juventus club owner Giovanni Agnelli, Baggio will join an AC Milan that also has recently acquired Nigerian-born striker George Weah and Portuguese forward Paulo Futre.

The trio will team with other internationals such as Montenegro forward Dejan Savicevic, French midfielder Marcel Desailly and Italians Franco Baresi, Paolo Maldini and Demetrio Albertini.

After the official announcement of his transfer, Baggio traveled to Milan to undergo medical examinations and discuss details of his personal contract.

In a recent television interview Baggio ruled out possible problems of coexistence with Savicevic.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jordan again defeat Al Jala'

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's women's national basketball team Thursday scored their victory over Syrian champions Al Jala' 45-37 in the third of a four match series organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

The win was important for the Jordanian team who now have less than two weeks to prepare for the Asian Championship which will be held in Shizuoka, Japan July 23-30.

Syrian champions Al Jala' were due to play their last match late Friday evening. (The match will be covered Sunday). Al Jala' had won the first match 69-51, but the Jordanian team came back for a convincing 54-37 victory in the second match.

Thursday's match at Al Orthodoxi proved that the Kingdom's team were improving with every match, and that all that was needed was match practice in order to best adapt to one another's play taking into account that the team was only regrouped earlier this year after a 12-year absence from the basketball scene.

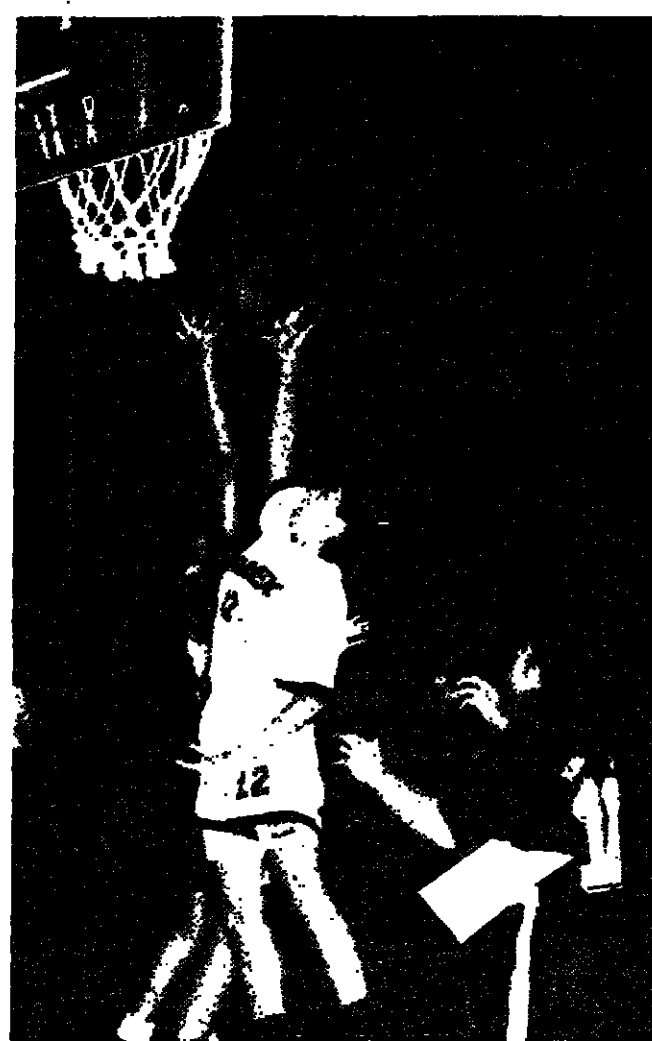
Jordan's Jumana Salti was again the match's top scorer with 17 points. (She had 28 points in the first match and 19 in the second). Tala Al Mauje had 10 and Jihan Abdulnour 7. Jordan missed the efforts of Suhair Makusi who suffered a slight injury in the first match.

Al Jala's top players were held to low scoring as Joel Abboushi had 9, Eto Mouradian 8, Karla Maghamez and Miriam Abdulnour 7.

Al Jala' took a big lead at the beginning of the first half at 9-2 and 11-4 with Eto Mouradian, Joel Abboushi and Karla Maghamez scoring for the Syrian team.

Jordan's Tala Al Mauje, who was unsuccessful in the first two matches, netted eight points together with Jihan Abdulnour while Hind Ghouri rebounded and took the lead 18-15 in the 17th minute.

Although happy with the



Jordan's Tala Al Mauje #12 goes for a jump ball. (File photo)

Jordan won the first half 24-18.

At the beginning of the second half, Al Jala' applied a press defence which caused many turnovers and allowed them to score by Abboushi and Miriam Abdulnour to reduce the gap to 32-30 for Jordan.

The Kingdom's team led 35-30 before Al Jala' scored to reduce the gap to 35-34. However, the concerted efforts of playmaker Hala Muheisen and the team's star centre Jumana Salti enabled Jordan to keep the lead and win the match 45-37.

Although happy with the

year and again in July '94 when they finished second behind Lebanon's Homenmen in Al Jazireh's five-team regional championship.

Al Jala' currently lead the standings in the Syrian League and will play a three-round playoff against titleholders Al Horrieh and Al Ourouba clubs starting July 19.

Five of Al Jala's players are on the Syrian national team including Al Yarmouk club's powerful centre Eto Mouradian.

Other national team players include Karim and Miriam Abdulnour, Karla Maghamez, Dina Abdul Samad and Joel Abboushi. Other players are Reem Shakkour, Nour Tarabishi, Tania Ribat, Aileen Khokaz, Regina Maqdesi and Wa'ed Karroum.

The Kingdom's team includes Rana Hussein, Tala Al Mauje, Jumana Salti, Hala Muheisen, Suhair Makusi, Andeira Qasseieh, Tetiana Qardan, Hind Ghouri, Sirsa Naghaway, Dima Shaded, Zein Sha'sha, Rania Al Dajani and Jihan Abdulnour.

NBA superstar shows up at Orthodoxi

Prior to the women's match NBA superstar, Hakim 'the dream' Olajuwon showed up for the youth Under-18 team's practice where over 2000 basketball fans had crowded the court after hearing of his last minute plans.

Now on a brief visit on his way to Umra pilgrimage, Olajuwon had a brief warmup with the youth team who will be leaving for the World Championship Sunday. He then played a match for a few minutes, but failed to captivate his fans who were eager to see some slam dunks and action-packed moves.

Olajuwon is the NBA's Most Valuable Player in the past two seasons as he led his team, the Houston Rockets, to two consecutive NBA championship titles.

Romanian rower banned for life

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian international oarswoman Fania Hanuseac, who was in training for the 1996 Olympics, has been banned for life for failing a dope test, the Romanian Rowing Federation (RRF) said on Friday.

"Hanuseac failed a random doping test in last year's world championships at Indianapolis under her former name Costea, was earlier this year and the World Rowing Federation (FISA) chose the only

punishment existing in our sport for that — a life ban," RRF deputy general secretary Daniela Busetoiu said.

The 28-year-old Hanuseac, who competed in last year's world championships at Indianapolis under her former name Costea, was preparing for the Atlanta Olympics with the Romanian women's eight.

WTA to decide Seles ranking

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Monica Seles plans to return to women's tennis despite infighting among players on the WTA Tour that led to a rejection of a proposal to give her special ranking considerations.

"I never asked for anything," Seles said from her home in Florida, according to her spokeswoman.

Seles is set to announce her comeback Saturday during a news conference at the Special Olympics in New Haven, Conn., and is expected to play her first Grand Slam event in 2½ years at the U.S. Open in August.

Seles' first match will be a televised exhibition with Martina Navratilova in Atlantic City on July 29, though it is uncertain whether she will play any tour events before the open. She's been practising daily, coached by her father, and her comeback does not hinge on any allowances the WTA tour makes for her ranking.

"Monica has never asked for special ranking consideration, and her decision on whether or not to return has nothing to do with that," said Linda Dozoretz, spokeswoman for Seles' representative at international management group.

"She's not worried about her ranking," Dozoretz said. "It would have been a very nice gesture to show that they really wanted her back and were willing to make allowances, but it's not something that will make a difference with her. I don't think she had any expectations of getting anything. She feels that if and when she comes back, she'll earn her own ranking. Anything the players say or do has nothing to do with her decision."

Seles was stabbed in the back in Hamburg, Germany on April 30, 1993 by a deranged fan of Steffi Graf. Graf has spoken publicly of her desire to see Seles return to the tour, but it was Graf who was among the most adamant in objecting to the ranking proposal for Seles, according to a source close to the WTA.

Navratilova, president of the WTA Tour, originally proposed that Seles be co-ranked No. 3 because Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario have been going back and forth as No. 1 over the past year. But some players objected, saying that Seles was No. 1 when she left and should come back as No. 1.

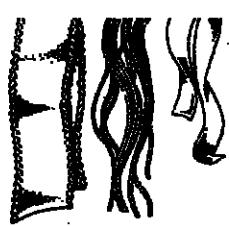
Navratilova then proposed at a WTA Tour meeting Sunday that Seles to co-ranked No. 1 for her first six tournaments or 12 months, whichever came first, and that for the next 18 months her ranking average be calculated differently from other players. In essence, Seles' ranking would be based on the number of tournaments she played, rather than the regular minimum of 12 within a 52-week period.

Graf objected to that method of calculating Seles' ranking, according to the source close to the tour. Graf said that with her own physical problems, particularly her chronically aching back, she doesn't know how many tournaments she might play. Graf was concerned that she might not play 12 tournaments, so that Seles would have an unfair advantage in the rankings if she didn't have to play the minimum of 12.

Navratilova's proposal was criticised in Sunday's meeting by several players, including Gigi Fernandez. Fernandez wouldn't have been affected by the proposal, but her friend, No. 3 Conchita Martinez, would have been.

The players said they wanted a couple of days to think about it.

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ANNONCE

Les Français résident ou de passage en Jordanie sont cordialement invités au buffet-dansant que donnera l'Ambassadeur de France à l'occasion de la Fête Nationale, Le Vendredi 14 Juillet à partir de 21h 00, à la Résidence de France.

Les personnes n'ayant pas reçu leur invitation sont priées de se présenter au Consulat, du dimanche au Jeudi, munis d'une pièce d'identité, afin de la retirer. Celle-ci sera demandée à l'entrée.

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Sarajevo demands effective action by reaction force

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — A senior Bosnian official has challenged the U.N. to make its aid mission effective or pull out as peacekeepers outlined limits on Friday on the use of their new rapid reaction force (RRF).

"If you (the U.N.) are not going to be effective in carrying out your mission, then I think you should consider the option of leaving," Foreign Minister Mohammed Sadekovic said in Washington.

Withdrawal of the 22,000-strong mission is increasingly regarded as an option as Bosnian Serbs cripple aid operations and the Bosnian government fights to lift the siege of Sarajevo.

Mediator Carl Bildt said peace prospects were bleak after talks with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic on Thursday.

U.N. sources said he could travel to Belgrade on Friday to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who is seen as the key to persuading the Bosnian Serbs to lift their veto on a big power peace plan.

The 10,000-man RRF has become enveloped in confusion since European governments ordered its creation in June to give U.N. peacekeepers a combat arm.

The RRF is still not fully deployed, and the bureaucratic and political forces paralysing the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia have been hedging it too with restrictions.

U.N. officials admitted on Thursday that U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi would have to authorise any potential combat mission by the reaction force.

Mr. Akashi, an avowed opponent of force, is widely blamed by U.N. military commanders for thwarting their efforts to tackle the Serbs head-on when they flout the U.N.

Officials said on Friday that it was unlikely the RRF's extra firepower would be used to deter Serb bombard-

ment of civilian areas or to force aid across Serb territory to beleaguered Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia.

"It's an extra dose of morphine for a dying patient," one source said in Sarajevo. "It will bring short-term relief but won't solve a thing unless there's a political breakthrough."

Serb artillery attacks on Sarajevo civilians since the spring have inflicted scores of casualties and turned the clock back to the worst days of the three-year war.

Peacekeepers have done nothing to relieve the city's plight while Mr. Bildt tries to crank up a fresh peace initiative and the RRF is slowly deployed.

There is nothing in the RRF mandate which would let the force step in when the shelling gets out of control although the past has shown that an excessive rise in the death toll prompts public demands in the West for action.

A U.N. official said it would remain policy to run aid convoys to the enclaves only with Serb permission, even when RRF tanks, artillery and attack helicopters become available.

Shelling and sniper fire killed eight civilians in a U.N.-guarded Muslim enclave Thursday and early Friday, including a couple and their six-year-old daughter who were waiting in line for water.

A shell hit Hana Djorevic, her husband, Bozo, and their daughter Magdalena as a French water truck pulled up and started its motor to pump water. The girl died instantly; her parents died later at a hospital.

The Bosnian Health Ministry said two other children were among the dead, and 18 civilians were wounded in the Sarajevo enclave, where people must decide daily whether to hide in their cellars, hungry and thirsty, or risk their lives to venture out for water and ever scarcer food.

On Thursday, an attack by

rebel Serbs on government-held Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia was the fiercest since it was declared a U.N. "safe area" two years ago. Five civilians were killed and 19 were wounded, said Sarajevo state-run radio. The enclave was under shelling again Friday.

Sarajevo Radio said five civilians were wounded Thursday and early Friday in a Serb attack on the eastern enclave, Zepa, and that 105 detonations were recorded overnight in the area of Velika Kladusa, north of Bihac.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the first food convoy since May 20 had reached the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde, where 56,000 residents "are in an extremely desperate situation."

The nine-truck convoy brought 78 tonnes of food, and another seven-truck convoy was trying to get in with 46 tonnes. But the people of Gorazde need 772 tonnes per month, the UNHCR said.

Gorazde, Bihac, Zepa, Srebrenica, Tuzla and Sarajevo were declared U.N. protected "safe zones" in 1993. But the United Nations has had difficulty getting humanitarian aid to the civilians within the enclaves, and has been unable to prevent Serbs from attacking them or using them as bases for attacks against the Serbs.

In Thursday's battle in Srebrenica, 10 shells hit a camp of Dutch U.N. peacekeepers, and a U.N. observation post on the front line between the Muslim defenders and the Serb besiegers was damaged. U.N. officials said none of the 450 Dutch in the enclave were hurt.

There was no report Friday that the peacekeepers were withdrawing from their post, as they did after a Serb attack last month on another watchtower.



WARES FOR WAGES: A Ukrainian woman sells pots, pans and kettles to drivers outside the Novomoskovsk plant in the Dnepropetrovsk region of Ukraine. Many workers at

Ukrainian plants receive factory production items instead of a regular salary because of the economic crisis in the country (AFP photo)

U.N. must seal biological file — Iraq

DUBAI (Agencies) — The United Nations must confirm the elimination of Iraq's biological arms programme before Baghdad agrees to the destruction of other weapons parts, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf said Friday.

"Once this (biological) file is closed, we will be ready to examine with UNSCOM a list of material to be destroyed," said Mr. Sahaf, quoted in the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat from New York.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament post-war Iraq, said in a letter released Wednesday that Baghdad was refusing to destroy ballistic missile parts discovered early this year.

"Thus, the commission has not yet completed one of its important tasks in the missile

area as defined by the relevant (U.N.) Security Council resolutions," Mr. Ekeus said.

But Mr. Sahaf told Al Hayat that his country had promised to fill in the gaps on its germ warfare programme by mid-July and expected UNSCOM to close the file "before the end of August."

Iraq has admitted for the first time that it developed an offensive biological weapons programme, Mr. Ekeus said in his letter to the Security Council.

The former Swedish diplomat said Baghdad pledged to provide by the end of the month "a full, final and complete disclosure of all aspects of the past biological weapons programme."

UNSCOM says Baghdad has yet to account for 17 tonnes of growth culture. Mr. Al Sahaf said the

biological programme was halted in 1990 before the outbreak of the Gulf war which drove its troops out of Kuwait, "because stocking these agents turned out to be very dangerous."

The Security Council imposed crippling sanctions on Iraq after its invasion of the emirate in August 1990.

Lifting the oil embargo depends on Iraq's compliance with U.N. resolutions to eliminate its nuclear, chemical and biological arms programmes as well as ballistic missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz vowed Thursday his country would conform to U.N. resolutions and hoped UNSCOM would soon confirm that Baghdad had destroyed its weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq, in an

"oral statement" during his visit to Baghdad last week, had "admitted for the first time the offensive nature" of its biological weapons programme.

Prior to that admission, Iraq had insisted that its military biological weapons programme "was limited in scope to defensive research and that no weapons or agents had ever been produced," he wrote.

According to the Iraqi government, its biological weapons programme was transferred in early 1986 to the Salman Pak site, where research and development continued, Mr. Ekeus said.

In mid-1988, Al Hakam was selected as the site for production of agents for biological warfare. Production of the biological

(Continued on page 3)

Sunday Times apologises to Foot

LONDON (AP) — The Sunday Times apologised in court Friday to former Labour Party leader Michael Foot for a story which linked him with the KGB.

The newspaper said it was paying Mr. Foot's legal costs and "substantial" damages. Mr. Foot sued the Sunday Times and its owner, Rupert Murdoch, because of a front-page story published Feb. 19 under the headline, "KGB: Michael Foot was our agent."

The amount of damages was not disclosed, but the Guardian newspaper said Friday that the settlement would cost the Sunday Times at least £250,000 (\$400,000).

Mr. Foot, 81, was leader of the Labour Party from 1980 to 1983. The Sunday Times reported claims that Soviet agents gave Mr. Foot small amounts of money, usually less than £150 (\$250) to help support the Tribune, a left-wing newspaper.

The Sunday Times said it interviewed seven former KGB agents including the British double agent, Oleg Gordievsky. "To many readers the articles could or would have suggested that he was a spy or influential KGB agent who had knowingly and willingly supplied inside information on British politics and other matters to the KGB, thereby betraying his country, colleagues and the democratic principles he has always upheld and causing serious damage to the national interest," said Mr. Foot's attorney, Geoffrey Robertson.

In court Friday, the Sunday Times said it did not believe Mr. Foot was a KGB agent. The Sunday Times' attorney, Alastair Brett, said the newspaper believed the allegations were of public concern and that it took reasonable steps to check the story.

"But the Sunday Times never intended making any of the allegations," Mr. Brett said. "It honestly believed it had made it clear that the article did not accuse Mr. Foot of being a KGB spy, agent or confidential contact, or of any improper conduct."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arabs quit Likud citing extremist policies

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Nine Arab members of the Israeli right-wing opposition Likud quit the party on Friday in protest at the leadership's refusal to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Suleiman Diala, a member of the politburo, and eight other Arabs out of 47 who sit on the Likud central committee, said they had sent a resignation letter to party leader Benjamin Netanyahu. "The extremist positions adopted by the Likud recently and the refusal of the party to talk with the PLO," were behind the decision, Mr. Diala told Israel radio. He also hit out at certain Likud deputies for "wanting to take back control of Gaza and having made discriminatory comments about the Arabs of Israel." The Likud picked up 30,000 votes — equivalent to one deputy — from the 800,000 strong Arab population living in Israel at the 1992 general elections. Mr. Netanyahu is facing a crisis after his number two and former foreign minister David Levy walked out in June and set up his own movement, with an eye on the general elections due in November 1996. The Likud leader complains that the peace process is leading to the creation of a Palestinian state and says he will cut all links with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat if he is elected prime minister.

32 killed in fighting in central Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — At least 32 people have been killed in factional fighting in Somalia's central Galduduud region this week, clan leaders said Friday. Militias from the Marehan clan who support the Somali National Front (SNF) faction, and those from the Ayr subclan of Mogadishu warlord Mohammed Farah Aideded's Habr Gedir, fought with recoilless rifles, anti-aircraft missiles and machine-guns in the towns of Mataban and Al Gab. Fighting was fierce during the past three days when 23 of the 32 victims, who included women and children, were killed. SNF spokesman Issa Ugas Tarabi told a news conference here. The violence is believed to have been provoked by the murder of an SNF supporter in Mogadishu, allegedly by General Aideded's followers. Mr. Tarabi claimed Gen. Aideded had dispatched some 50 battle-wagons as reinforcements to his fighters in Galduduud and urged all non-Habr Gedir Somalis to block their passage. He appealed to all SNF to evacuate south Mogadishu. Gen. Aideded's faction, as soon as possible. But Aideded supporters dismissed Mr. Tarabi's statement as "baseless and provocative" and promised to investigate the allegations.

Indian team to visit Iraq to study railways

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A team of Indian officials will visit Iraq from July 18 to study Iraqi needs in the development of its railway network, Railway Minister C.K. Jaffer Sharief said Friday. The team "will make a first-hand assessment of the country's needs in the transport sector," Sharief said after a meeting here with Iraqi Transport Minister Ahmad Murtadah. Mr. Murtadah earlier sought Indian assistance to develop its transport sector. The Indian government has in the past laid rail lines in Iraq and provided a variety of assistance to Iraqi railways.

Egyptian policeman shoots colleague

ASSIUT (R) — An Egyptian policeman who shot and seriously wounded a colleague who did not stop at checkpoint has received a reward of 100 pounds (\$29) for strict adherence to orders, security sources said on Friday. They said the incident was on Thursday night in the troubled town of Mallawi, which is under a 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew because of regular attacks on the police by the Gama'a Al Islamiyah, the main militant organisation fighting the Egyptian government. A police officer, named as Captain Mahmoud Abdul Badi Ibrahim, was driving home at about midnight in his private car and in civilian clothes, the sources said. He drove straight through the checkpoint and policeman Mohamad Saad opened fire at the departing car, they added.

U.S. embargo boosted Iran, Rafsanjani says

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Friday a U.S. embargo against Iran had failed and the country's economy and national unity had improved under American pressure.

"It is no exaggeration if we say that our economy is in better shape after the U.S. embargo than... before," Mr. Rafsanjani said at a mass prayer broadcast live on Tehran Radio.

"Our national unity which the U.S. aimed to destroy is stronger now. People saw... that a superpower had sharpened its sword to weaken our economy, so everybody became ready to defend," he said in reference to the ban imposed in June by President Bill Clinton on United States trade and investment with Iran.

"Internationally only Israel supported the embargo... and many countries officially opposed it," Mr. Rafsanjani said to the cheers of the crowd gathered under the hot summer sun at Tehran University.

"Americans either do not really know, which is not unlikely since their informa-

tion on Iran is very distorted, or they just pretend," he added, giving examples of development projects he said were being carried out at a high pace despite the sanctions.

Mr. Rafsanjani said a major aim of Washington's policy on Iran was to cover up American domestic problems by concentrating on foreign conflicts, but it had also failed to achieve that.

"We hope that in the future the U.S. would give up such adventurism," he said. Mr. Rafsanjani also accused the United States of seeking to block oil and gas deals between Iran and its neighbours.

Washington banned U.S. companies from extending loans to Turkmenistan if the Central Asian country decided to export its natural gas to Europe through Iran, he charged.

"This is shameful. What kind of interference is that? The United States treats other countries like its lackeys and dictates to them," he said. "But such bullying no longer works. The world is more aware today."

Tandoori murder suspect granted court protection

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A court in southern India granted protection from arrest Friday to a ruling party politician wanted for the murder of his wife, whose body was burned in a restaurant oven, officials said.

Madras Session Court Judge M. Gopalaswamy granted "anticipatory bail" to Congress (I) politician Sushil Kumar Sharma in line with a judicial procedure that offers protection to persons fearing arrest, they said.

The order preventing Mr. Sharma's arrest on murder charges would remain in force for two weeks, the court said.

In his proxy application, the 36-year-old Sharma said he was the victim of a political vendetta. "I am afraid to go to Delhi because I would be arrested and put in shame," the application said.

Anticipatory bail is generally granted only if an applicant appears in person before the court and convinces a judge that his or her life is in danger or that he or she is the subject of police harassment.

A senior police officer said he did not expect the bail application to hold up. "We will continue our operations and we will hunt him down," Additional Police Commissioner Maxwell Pereira said.

"There are some very clear directives issued by the supreme court on the subject," he said. "We are going to contest it since it is invalid."

Mr. Sharma, a former president of the New Delhi chapter of the party's youth wing, is charged with murdering his wife Naina Sahni, 29, and attempting to burn her body in the open-air tandoor oven of a downtown hotel restaurant.

Mr. Sharma in his application described himself as a resident of Madras and said he was not present in New Delhi on Sunday night when the body of his wife was stuffed into the oven for a clandestine cremation. Mr. Sharma is a partner in the restaurant, located in the Ashok Yatri Nivas. The manager of the restaurant is under arrest.

Police detectives on Friday mounted surveillance on the New Delhi homes of unspecified Congress leaders amid speculation that the fugitive politician may have taken shelter with a friend.

The alleged involvement of Mr. Sharma and Keshav Kumar, a former Delhi

prosecutor in the trial of Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman sought to reinforce the credibility of a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) witness after defence attorneys suggested the agency bungled its handling of a key informant in the World Trade Centre bombing.

Among the questions raised by defence lawyers was how informant Emad Salem, while working on behalf of the government, managed to make 66 unauthorised tape recordings.

The defence also tried to undermine the credibility of Salem and FBI Agent John Anticev to discredit transcripts of conversations taped by Mr. Salem. The lawyers want to prove that the FBI and Mr. Salem teamed up to fabricate a conspiracy involving the defendants where, the lawyers assert, none existed.

On Thursday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald pointedly asked the FBI agent what he thought the defence lawyers were getting at.

"Did you plant any evidence in this case?" Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Anticev. "No," Mr. Anticev replied.

"Did you plant any evidence on any defendants?" the prosecutor asked. "No," the agent said.

"Did you destroy any evidence?" "No."

"As you sit here today, do you believe that Emad Salem blew up the World Trade Centre?" Mr. Fitzgerald asked. "Absolutely not," Mr. Anticev answered.

The last question came in response to a defence lawyer who raised the possibility that the informant might have had a role in the February 1993 blast.

Three hours after the explosion that killed six people and injured more than 1,000, Mr. Salem checked into a Manhattan hotel complaining of dizziness and an ear problem, testimony has shown.

Transcripts of recordings secretly made by Mr. Salem show that he bragged to FBI agents after the blast that he had warned them beforehand that the bombing was likely.

Mr. Salem infiltrated a suspected group in 1991 and supplied the FBI with information about them until July 1992.



Christo begins unwrapping Reichstag

BERLIN (R) — Workers began unwrapping the "wrapped" Reichstag Friday, removing the silvery cloth and blue cords that have covered Germany's parliament for the last two weeks. Officials estimated the art work by Bulgarian-born Christo and his wife Jeanne-Claude had drawn over five million viewers, more than the three million who came to see their wrapping of Paris' Pont Neuf Bridge in 1985. The artists were not on hand to see work crews start removing the draping, their spokesman said. "It would be too sad for them to see the end of their work," Professional climbers began unwrapping the building's interior courtyard and should be finished by Monday. They will also have to remove scaffolding that protected ornate exterior carvings, but no trace of the project will remain by July 23. The project capped more than 20 years of campaigning by Christo, who has become famous by encircling Florida islands in pink plastic and erecting thousands of blue and yellow umbrellas in Japan and California simultaneously. The artists fought the 311 million bill themselves, hoping to recover their costs with spin-off prints and postcards.

4 injured in 1st San Fermin bull run

PAMPLONA, Spain (R) — Four men were injured on the first day of bull running in the San Fermin Festival in Pamplona, northwest Spain. A 49-year-old Spaniard was gored on the side of the face by one of six bulls let loose to charge through the city's narrow streets, and a 23-year-old American was hit in the body. A Spaniard and a New Zealander were treated in hospital with minor injuries, but the run was generally quick and clean. The bulls, led by hundreds of runners in traditional Basque costume of white tunics and red sashes, completed the 900-metre dash to the city's bull ring in less than three minutes. The San Fermin Festival, which gained fame through Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Sun Also Rises*, continues for nine days with a bull run each morning.

Gore's mother hospitalised after heart attack

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Pauline Gore, the 83-year-old mother of U.S. Vice President Al Gore, has suffered a heart attack and was hospitalised, Bill Hance, a hospital spokesman, said. Mrs. Gore was conscious and in fair condition. She was brought to Vanderbilt Medical Centre about 12:30 a.m. (0430 GMT), he said. The vice president and his wife, Tipper Gore, arrived Wednesday morning from Washington to see Mrs. Gore, who was taken to the hospital from her home in Carthage, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) east of Nashville. Mrs. Gore, a lawyer, was one of the first female graduates of the Vanderbilt University Law School. She suffered a stroke two years ago that slightly damaged her peripheral vision.

Ambulances, fire engine obey dog's call

TOKYO (AFP) — Two ambulances and a fire engine have rushed to a Tokyo condominium after receiving an emergency call, only to find a dog sitting in front of a telephone booth. The dog, named "We've never had such a case before," a Tokyo Fire Department official was quoted as saying by the Yomiuri Shimbun. "The dog must have hit 119 accidentally while playing with the phone." The fire department, which is able to trace the origin of telephone calls, received the call from the condominium in eastern Tokyo Thursday morning. Although the caller did not speak, there were sounds of a dog barking, and officials presumed that the caller was too sick to speak. The three vehicles with 14 rescue members were sent to the site immediately.

Column 1000

Volume 19 Number

Cabinet approves aid agreements

JAMANA (Petra) — Saudi Arabia's Cabinet on Saturday approved a draft accord with the German government for the sale of 300,000 tonnes of Saudi wheat to Germany.

The German government is expected to approve the accord, which will give five million marks (DM 5 million) to Jordan's agricultural reform programme.

The accord, which is a result of a meeting between the Saudi and German governments, was approved by the German government on Saturday.

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